

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 113* April 2011



Tony and his sprinkler system

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 RFSA Delegate: Jeremy Mears

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**All members of the Colinton
brigade are urged to attend the**

**Annual General Meeting
and
election of office bearers**

Saturday 14 May, from 1300-1400.

**The AGM will be followed by a
barbecue and demonstration
activities.**

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Call out:

nil

Fire season:

The official bushfire danger fire season ended on 31 March. This means that fires may be lit in the open, without the need for a fire permit. However, we urge caution, whatever the circumstances, and we also urge courtesy: it is no more than good manners to inform your neighbors and your local brigade if you plan to light up anything more than a campfire.

This is also a good time to check and clean stoves and heaters which will soon be in full use – a surprising number of house fires are caused by obstructed flues.

In 2010 the NSW government created a website which is still relevant:
<http://www.3minutes.com.au/firesafety.html>



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.



Daniel and the sprinkler connection

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.



Training 2:

The brigade is grateful to Tony and Gill Robinson for allowing their solar/grid electrical system to be viewed, as well as their impressive sprinkler system.



Training 3: 24 hour event 26-27 March
from Mick Holton 0427 562 136.

Cancelled because of the weather – but watch this space ...



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**Annual message:
change
your clocks,
change
your smoke alarm batteries**

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Invitation from Brian McKinlay:

RFSA Conference
Facing the Challenges Together
17-19 June 2011
Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour

“As Chairman of the Organising Committee and President of the RFSA, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to the RFSA 2011 Annual Conference of the Association, *taking place in beautiful Coffs Harbour, North Coast of NSW.* The theme for the Conference is *“Facing the Challenges Together”.*”

"I am sure your experiences at the Conference will be extremely rewarding and challenging, rewarding in the sense of meeting with friends and colleagues from across the Services, in an environment of participation with a range of speakers to give a better understanding of the role in which we as members of a Rural Fire Service undertake to serve our many and diverse Rural Communities, and challenging in the sense of the future directions of the Rural Fire Services in providing this support to these Rural Communities in an ever changing environment, together with the personal commitment and motivation to support our Services and the Community.

"The Association in supporting the members seeks to provide the opportunity for one and all to gain from the experiences enjoyed at such an event.

"We encourage you to bring your families along, stay an extra day or two and enjoy the endless things to see and do in the Coffs Region.

"I look forward to seeing you there with our many friends and colleagues."

Brian McKinlay, President RFSA 

Warning of huge rise in risk of bushfire:

By Rosslyn Beeby, Science Reporter, Canberra Times, reproduced with permission

Australia's bushfire risk will increase by 25 per cent in less than a decade if climate change pushes up average temperatures by just 0.4 degrees by 2020, according to CSIRO research.

But that risk could more than double by 2020, with the number of extreme fire danger days increasing by up to 65 per cent, if average temperatures rise by one degree, CSIRO climate scientist Kevin Hennessey said.

In a newly published CSIRO collection of peer-reviewed research outlining the climate challenges facing Australia, Dr

Hennessey said it was likely the world would see a 2-degree rise in global temperatures "on top of changes already experienced within the lifetime of a current generation".

He said Australia's cities would also feel the impacts of climate change through an increasing "urban heat island effect" caused by the heat-retaining building materials and road infrastructure "putting more demand on energy for air-conditioning".

Climate Change: Science and Solutions for Australia, which can be downloaded as a free e-book from the CSIRO website, was launched yesterday by CSIRO chief executive Megan Clark at a national climate conference in Cairns. Dr Clark said the book was based on the latest peer-reviewed literature on climate change, "contributed by thousands of researchers in Australia and internationally".

In his chapter of the CSIRO book, Dr Hennessey said climate change impacts would increasingly "be experienced first through extreme events rather than gradual changes in mean temperature or rainfall".

He said conditions leading to the February 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria were extreme, with high temperatures, low humidity, strong winds, and very dry fuel as a result of years of drought. All these factors combined to produce an extreme forest fire danger index that exceeded 100 in many areas.

Dr Hennessey said research showed the fire index was "trending upwards" in some areas of southern Australia as a result of higher temperatures and worsening drought.

CSIRO's new climate e-book can be downloaded at:

<http://www.csiro.au/resources/Climate-Change-Book.html>



From the Monaro RFS website:

(This information is intended for brigades, but it is of interest to anyone who runs a diesel vehicle):

Monaro RFS has discovered some interesting information regarding this years winter diesel.

- Winter mix will become available at the beginning of May (Monaro distributors)
- Monaro winter mix is normally rated at minus five degrees Celsius
- Our sources have informed us that the 2011 mix will be rated at zero degrees.

Equipment Officers should determine what diesel fuels are stored in any drums and how full they are. Please avoid purchasing your brigade diesel until the winter mix arrives and talk to your Operations Officer if you have any questions or concerns. Fred Nichols (Cooma RFS) is also happy to discuss your fuel management strategies.



Captain Graham views the sprinkler

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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
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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.

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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

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