

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 119* October 2011



Long Service medals and a new RFS flag: l-r James, Graham, Nick, Bob (pic by Jeremy)

Committee 2011-2012:

Fire Captain: Graham Povey
Senior Deputy: Nick Goldie
Deputies: Bob Morison, Jeremy Mears, Barry Woolacott
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Secretary: Sandra Lauer
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Equipment Officer: Michael Burton
Community Awareness: Nick Goldie
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NSW RFSA Delegate: Jeremy Mears



Fire Season:

The fire season started at midnight on 30 September.

NO FIRES
may be lit without a permit.

It is your responsibility to clean, clear prepare and mow your own property.



Call out:

On the evening of *Saturday 17 September*, members of the brigade in *Seven Bravo*, Jeremy, Michael, Bob M), and *Charlie* (Graham, Barry, Jacqui) carried out an HR burn on Poveys Road.

On *Wednesday 28 September* at around five in the evening, the Michelago brigade was called to a fire on the Micalago Road. Michelago Captain Brent soon asked for assistance, as the fire was in inaccessible country. Colinton *Seven Alpha* (Martin, Michael B, Nick) was sent, and joined the Michelago crews. The fire was on a steep rocky slope, under high-tension power lines, and before very long Captain Brent made the courageous decision to call all crews off the fire ground because of potentially toxic smoke coming from a burning rubbish tip, the original source of the blaze. One Michelago member was hospitalised due to smoke inhalation.

A NSW Fire Brigades truck arrived, with crew members trained to use breathing apparatus. As this vehicle was not suitable for rough terrain, the NSW crew was loaded on to Michelago *One* and proceeded to douse the tip with foam. After about an hour, the RFS crews were able to go back on to the fire ground and continue with containing the fire.

Crews were home before midnight.

At noon on *Friday 30 September*, Triple Zero calls came in to Fire Control about a grass-fire on the Ingelara flatlands. *Charlie* (Graham) and *Alpha* (Nick) were despatched to investigate, and found several hectares of grass ablaze. The trucks were soon joined by crew members Martin and Ann, and the fire was halted at a laneway between paddocks. Captain Graham decided to create a perimeter and allow the fire to burn itself out, so Martin and Ann set off around the edge of the

paddock with drip-torches. The fire was soon contained, and crews were home by mid-afternoon.

The brigade carried out an HR burn on the Travelling Stock Reserve opposite Ingelara on the evening of *Monday 3 October*. *Seven Alpha* (Barry, Ann, Michael, Nick) lit one side of the perimeter, while *Bravo* (Bob, Gary, Jo, Jacqui) lit the other, while Graham in *Charlie* sat on the top of the hill as Grand Master. The 30 ha burn was very successful. Crews were home by 1930. ↪

Open Day:

Some four dozen members and friends of the Colinton Brigade held a BBQ to mark the statewide RFS Open Day on *Saturday 24 September*. Highlight of the day was the presentation of Long Service medals to four members, by RFS Cooma-Monaro Team Manager, Supt. Jim Darrant.

Cr Martin Hughes, a former President of the brigade, acted as master-of-ceremonies with a brief thumbnail sketch of each of the recipients. *Nick Goldie*, he said, was a journalist, and the brigade had benefited from the production of the Colinton *Courier* since September 2001. *Bob Morison*, also a former President of the brigade, brought with him many years experience with the SES – a good man to have in an emergency! As a toddler, *James Povey* fought fires with his father and his grandfather, and joined the RFS as soon as he was able aged sixteen. And James' father, Brigade Captain *Graham Povey*, a fifth generation Monaro farmer, fighting fires for many decades, brings a depth of local knowledge which underpins all the electronic technology of modern fire fighting.

Supt. Darrant praised the brigade for maintaining a high level of training, and consistently being able to field crews at any hour of any day. ↪

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. 



Supt. Jim Darrant and long-serving member Bob Morison

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. 



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***



Training (2) - CFUs:

Bredbo village is now the proud owner of a Community Fire Unit (CFU). This is a smart new trailer, which contains a pump, hoses, nozzles, rake hoes, and all the bits and pieces needed for small-scale fire fighting. It needs a source of water (tank, dam, village hydrant) - it also needs a crew to operate it. CFUs are intended to be a back-up to normal brigade fire fighting. CFU crews are issued with boots, gloves, helmets, and a smart blue fire-retardant uniform, and are required to attend a short version of the Basic Firefighting course. If the brigade trucks are away at the fire-line, the CFU looks after homes and assets, protecting against ember attack, and putting out spot fires. CFU crews are not intended to take away members from active fire fighting, though they should become members of a brigade.

On Wednesday and Thursday 21-22 September, L&D Officer Mick Holton, and Fire Mitigation Officer Fred Nichols held a CFU course for a number of Bredbo residents, who became acquainted with fire hydrants, pumps, flaming gas cylinders and effective extinguishers.

As well as local residents, the course was open to instructors from other brigades, so they can in turn pass on the information as CFUs become available in the region. Graham, Jeremy and Nick attended from Colinton.



CFU course at Bredbo: Peter and Liz

Fire Weather Website:

Among the researchers and academics attending the Bowral fire weather workshop (see: *Courier 118*), one presenter stood out: Dave Edworthy, a volunteer firefighter from the Windellama (NSW) Rural Fire Brigade, who might well have shown the way of the future. A quick glance at the brigade's website demonstrates his story:

http://www.windellama.bushfirebrigade.com.au/windellama_rfs_about_us.php

Dave has taken modern technology and put it at the service of small rural fire brigades. Like so many, Windellama Brigade relies on metropolitan weather reports and forecasts, which can be very inaccurate for local conditions. Dave and a technological colleague started with a fairly sophisticated automatic weather station at their fire station, to provide local data in real time on a simple website.

Then they became ambitious: using solar panels and mobile phones, they are able to assess weather conditions at a variety of sites and even use text messages to operate devices such as sprinklers when conditions cross pre-determined limits.

Not surprisingly, more and more small rural brigades want to be part of the action.



Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at horehound@yless4u.com.au
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