

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 131 * October 2012



Kirsti at the Poveys Road burn

Committee 2012-2013:

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

NSW RFSA Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Fire Season:

The official Bushfire Season started on Monday 1 October.

This means that NO FIRES may be lit without a permit.

During a **Total Fire Ban** (TOBAN), all fire permits are suspended, no outdoor fires at all may be lit, slashers and mowers should not be used, and there are substantial penalties for any infringement.

It is the responsibility of land-holders and residents to ensure that their property is well maintained, that all flammables are well away from buildings, and that grass is mowed and bushes pruned. 

Call out:

On the afternoon of *Friday 14 September*, a large grass-fire was alight near the Highway, off the Chakola Road. A pager call at 1700 requested assistance from Colinton, and *Alpha* (Jeremy, Nick) and *Bravo* (Graham, Barry) were soon on the road south.

The fire was in thick love-grass, with a wind from the north-west. Fortunately, the country was mostly driveable, though steep in places, and with wet areas which saw several trucks bogged. *Alpha* and *Bravo* joined *Cooma Nine* on the western flank, and worked steadily along the perimeter until, at around 1900, meeting *Cooma* and *Bredbo* vehicles working in the other direction. The area burned was about 300 ha. Crews were home by 2000.

On *Sunday 16 September* the brigade carried out an extensive love-grass burn. After meeting at the station at 1030, four trucks left for Poveys Road and took up positions – Seven *Bravo* (Kirsti, Sandra) accompanying Bob M as he used the drip-torch along the edge of the road, with *Alpha* (Nick, Jeremy) as back-up and to protect assets such as straining-posts. *Charlie* (Graham, Barry) remained at the top of the hill so that Graham could direct operations, while *One* (Michael, Daniel) was positioned close to a homestead, and the most vulnerable point of the perimeter. There was a steady wind from the north-west, blowing the fire back on itself, and the burn went off without incident. Crews were home by early afternoon.

On the morning of *Sunday 23 September*, units from Colinton were dispatched to assist Michelago with a grass fire which was out of control between the Tinderry Road and Michelago Creek. *Alpha* (Jeremy, Bob, Nick) and *Charlie* (Graham, Michael) joined Michelago Seven *Alpha* and *Bravo* and Michelago *One*, while Colinton *One* (Barry) was held on stand-by at the station.

The fire had been almost contained by the Michelago trucks, but Michelago Captain Brent was concerned that strong winds were forecast for the afternoon, and he wanted the fire completely blacked out. This was done by noon, and crews were home in time for a late lunch.

At around 2100 in the evening of *Monday 24 September*, Seven *Charlie* (Graham) was dispatched to check on and extinguish a small grass fire which was burning near Bumbalong Road. Graham was home by 2300. The next morning Seven *Alpha* (Tony, Nick) patrolled the area and put out several smoldering stumps.

On Monday 8 October, *Alpha* (Michael, Nick) paid a visit to a nearby land-holder

who was burning weeds in a stockyard, with a friendly reminder that *it's now the Fire Season*, and no fires may be lit without a permit. ✍



Bob working along the Western flank

AFAC 2012 Conference:
from Sandra Lauer

In late August I attended the 2012 AFAC (Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council) and Bushfire CRC Conference in Perth as part of my PhD studies.

The conference theme this year was “*Diverse country. Common ground*” and this was reflected by the diversity of presentations across all spectrums of bushfire research, ranging from community bushfire safety to heat stress in firefighting.

My favourite presentation title was: *What is a Condom Tree, and What is its Role in Bushfire Research?* This presentation was

attended by many curious delegates and certainly very interesting. All conference proceedings are available on the web (<http://knowledgeweb.afac.com.au/conference>), so if you are interested you can find out for yourself what a condom tree is!

Also included as part of the conference was the Trade Expo, with the latest equipment for emergency services. Thanks to one of the exhibitors, I was able to acquire a pass for Jeremy.

Needless to say we were both very tempted to sneak off with one of the snazzy new fire trucks (see photo) but decided that it probably wouldn't be classed as carry-on luggage for the plane trip back.

There's always next year...



"Can I take it home?"
AFAC: Jeremy and a big **yellow** truck

The *Courier* welcomes M&T Motors:

The Colinton *Courier* has been appearing monthly since September 2001. We are grateful to a number of people who have in the past assisted with production: Noel Teys Real Estate, Sharp Australia, and Monaro Off Road Centre. The *Courier* is printed each month by Kwik Kopy of Phillip, whom we recommend. And we are very pleased to welcome **M&T Motors** of Cooma as a sponsor. Active members of the brigade, who have attended motor vehicle accidents, will know Stuart Dean and his familiar tilt-tray trucks with the M&T logo, clearing up after the unhappy event. M&T also supply and fit tyres and spare parts, have trailers for hire, and carry out mechanical repairs.



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.***

Community awareness for children is in action again, on the third Thursday of the month, at Colinton Fire Station for an informal hour or so, from 1900 (seven pm), **starting Thursday 18 October**. Contact Michael Burton (0407 003 392).



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.





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: Michael and German exchange student Mira



*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:



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The Colinton Courier is also available at

www.michelagoregion.org.au

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



Open Day: catching them (very) young