

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 135* February 2013



And it comes out here ...

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 RFS Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Call out:

The January issue of the *Courier* carried a comprehensive account of the Yarrabin fire, and managed to miss a whole crew and truck: Colinton *One* (Graham, Barry, Bob L, Jeremy, Carolyn) who attended the fire on the night of *Friday 11 January*.

Meanwhile, mopping up continued, with *Bravo* (Michael, Tanya, Sandra) on the fire-ground on *Wednesday 16 January*, and on *Thursday 17*, *Bravo* again (Kim, Martin and Kirsti).

Friday 18 January was another day of Total Fire Ban, and crews were asked to be on stand-by from lunch time.

Seven Alpha (Martin, Sandra, Nick) was on stand-by on *Monday 21 January* for the following day, but a message came in mid-afternoon that Yarrabin had received 15mm of rain and counting, so the crew was stood down.

Mid-morning on Tuesday 22, *Alpha* (Jeremy, Nick) was dispatched to investigate a report of a slasher being used near the Highway. While there was no TOBAN, the forecast was for 35C, so this was not advisable. In the event, the slasher operator thought the same thing, and had stopped work for the day.

Mopping up at Yarrabin continued for some days, until heavy rain (on *Sunday 27 January* Baroona Road received 69 mm in two hours) completed the blacking out process. According to the RFS website, the fire covered more than 12,000 hectares. The "Section 44" was revoked on 30 January.

On *Thursday 31 January*, *Alpha* (Bob, Michael, Jeremy) was on stand-by for a reported smoke sighting.

On *Sunday 10 February*, a series of thunder-storms passed through the district, and at mid-afternoon Alan L, looking down from his eyrie in the Tinderrys, reported a column of smoke on Ryrie Hill, due east of Baroona Road.

Seven *Alpha* was quickly on the road (Bob M, Michael, Nick), and found a small hot fire in long grass on the eastern slope. *Charlie* soon arrived on scene (Graham) and borrowed Michael as crew. The two trucks moved around the perimeter, dousing three-metre flames. They were joined by *Bravo* (Barry, Karl, Daniel), and *One*, (Kieran, Rowan, Tanya) which parked at the top of the hill to supply water to the three Sevens. Rowan and Tanya were quickly taken as additional crew for *Alpha* and *Charlie*. The fire was blacked out and crews were home by eight o'clock.

Tankers from the Michelago Brigade were on their way to assist on Ryrie Hill, when they were called to a rather larger fire on the Black Flat Road near Burra. ↪



Karl using the foam cannon

Apologies:

... to Jeremy and Sandra who supplied photographs in *Courier* 134, which later appeared in the *CM Express*. We like to give credit where it is due ... ↪

Congratulations:

The *Courier* would like to congratulate Cr **Winston Phillips**, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for *service to local government* on Australia Day. Winston has been involved with the RFS and the Bush Fire Management Committee for many years, as well as many other community groups.

And an equally well-deserved award, at the Australia Day celebrations in Centennial Park, Cooma Brigade's **Vern Dunning** was named Citizen of the Year. Congratulations! ↪

Essential bushfire safety:

(A review of this book appeared in the Courier for October. We will publish excerpts.)

How bushfire destroys houses (part 2) –


Direct flame: **can** ignite walls when vegetation grows, or burning debris piles up, against them. Direct flames **can't** ignite cladding unless they are spread from something burning against it.

Radiant heat: **can** crack windows and allow embers to blow inside; directly ignite house timbers if it comes from a nearby burning building or dense forest; indirectly dry out timber cladding to allow ignition from adjacent plants. Radiant heat **can't** cause houses to ignite spontaneously; cause houses to explode ahead of a fire front (though mass internal fires started by embers cause the violent disintegration of houses); of its own, ignite the walls of a solid house.

Wind: can carry sparks, embers and burning debris inside buildings; keep alight sparks caught in timber areas of buildings so that they eventually burn; break windows with hurtling debris; fell trees onto roofs; lift roofs and blow them off, when firebrands pour into the house.


Houses burn from the inside outwards, reaching frame and cladding last.

(Excerpts by permission of publisher. To be continued ...)

Essential Bushfire Safety Tips by Joan Webster (CSIRO 2012) is available in Cooma from Monaro Books and Music. 

Snakes alive!

Don't forget we have several trained humane snake handlers in the Brigade. If you have a "problem snake" call:


Gill Robinson 0400356645 or 62359334
Michael Burton 0407003392 




Briana, Jeremy and the foam cannon

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 (1.30 pm) 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 (7 pm). Contact Michael Burton (0407 003 392). 

Arsonist condemned:

A California court has sentenced an arsonist to death. Rickie Lee Fowler was found guilty of starting the Old Fire, which destroyed 1003 homes and led to five deaths in 2006. The sentence will automatically be appealed to the California Supreme Court. 

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. 

Total Fire Ban reminder:

During a Total Fire Ban (TOBAN) **no fire** may be lit in the open and *all Fire Permits are suspended*. This includes incinerators and barbecues which burn solid fuel, e.g. wood or charcoal.

Can I use an electric barbecue?

You can use an electric barbecue for cooking as long as it is under the direct

control of a responsible adult, who is present at all times while it is operating, and no combustible material is allowed within two metres at any time it is operating.

Can I use a gas barbecue?

You can use a gas barbecue under the following conditions:

- it is under the direct control of a responsible adult, present at all times while it is operating
- no combustible material is allowed within two metres at any time it is operating
- you have an immediate and continuous supply of water
- the barbecue is within 20 metres of a permanent private dwelling such as a home, or
- the barbecue is within a picnic area and the appliance is approved by Council, National Parks or State Forest.

Note that a Total Fire Ban may be applied in the ACT, and/or NSW, and that local media do not always make this clear.



Ann and Gill get to grips with the pump

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**

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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