

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 141* August 2013



Mopping up after an HR burn

Committee 2013-2014:

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

Call out:

On Sunday 21 July, there was a smoke sighting on Lawler Road. Seven *Alpha* (Michael B) was dispatched to investigate, with a Michelago crew on stand-by. By the time *Alpha* arrived on scene, the land-holder, with the assistance of Martin, had extinguished the fire, which had burned two hectares of lovegrass. Crews were stood down before dark.

Michael reports; *“When asked, the landholder advised they thought it would be the perfect time to burn some lovegrass as the area had been mowed and the grass was wet, but they didn’t know how volatile lovegrass is and when the wind picked up the fire got away from them.”*

Mid-afternoon on *Friday 2 August* there were reports of a fire on Ryrie Hill Road. Pager messages were sent, but there was no visible smoke, except from a known HR burn on Poveys Road, so crews were stood down. However, further investigation revealed a pile burn which had escaped along the Ryrie Hill ridge, and was threatening a large area of grassland. Using a grader and the three Sevens (*Alpha*, Michael; *Bravo*, Graham, Tony R; *Charlie*, Barry) the fire was contained and extinguished. The Michelago brigade was also on stand-by, but were not needed. ✍

Good news for the caterers:

The Colinton Brigade has received a grant from the Minister for Family and Housing, Community and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, for the purchase and equipping of a catering trailer. We anticipate that this facility will be set up to

include a BBQ, an urn, the light tower and generator, and general kitchen equipment. Brigade Catering Officer Julith will be closely consulted, and the final result should make a great improvement to staging areas, open days, and fund-raising events. ❧



Japanese exchange student Hisako (in borrowed PPE) at her first HR burn

Senate Enquiry:

The all-party Senate Committee of Enquiry into Extreme Weather Events handed down its *Report* this month. The *Report* is a sober and thorough investigation of the prospects for Australia's climate in the future.

The Committee consisted of two Senators from the Liberal Party, one National (Boswell), and one Green, chaired by Senator Simon Birmingham (LP), and heard evidence from a very long list of expert witnesses.

The *Recommendations* include among others:

- continuing and increased research by the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO, both within Australia and internationally
- improved local projections and forecasts
- credible and reliable flood and other risk mapping
- improved interagency cooperation, especially in the fire services
- that building codes incorporate mitigation measures.

A witness from the insurance industry stated: "the need for adaptation to extreme weather conditions is not a theoretical exercise or something that we need to contemplate doing in 10, 20 or 30 years' time; it is something that we are paying money and claims about right now, so we actually need to see adaptation of the built environment sooner rather than later."



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



And the Australian Forest Products Association stated: "The greatest impacts of climate change on forests will be associated with the hotter drier environment, with increased risk of bushfires and cyclonic activity, greater stress on trees increasing susceptibility to pest and disease incursions and decreasing productivity, and greater variability and intensity of rainfall influencing hydrological cycles and potential soil erosion."

For the complete Report, see http://www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/senate_committees?url=ec_ctte/completed_inquiries/2010-13/extreme_weather/report/index.htm



Pre-hydrate don't dehydrate – Gill at the HR burn

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: \$20.00 for adults, \$5.00 for juniors. Donations are always

welcome. Please provide a return address so a receipt can be mailed to you.



Sandra as Brigade photographer at the HR burn

Lovegrass Workshop:

All landholders, fire-fighters, and other interested people are invited to a

Lovegrass workshop: management and fire-fighting techniques

To be held in Bredbo on **Sunday 25 August** from 1300

by the Colinton and Bredbo brigades.

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE



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
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www.michelagoregion.org.au

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



RFS OPEN DAY

**The Colinton Brigade
invites our friends in
the community
to the
Annual Open Day
on
Saturday September 28
at
Colinton Fire Station
to**

- meet the members
- share a BBQ
- roll out a hose
- ride in a truck
- have fun

**from mid-morning
to mid-afternoon**

Everyone welcome!



After the burn ...