

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 148\* March 2014



*Training ... the land-owner (Julith)  
supplies local knowledge*

## **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

**NSW RFSA Delegate:** Jeremy Mears

## **Call out:**

On *Saturday 1 March* at 2230, returning home from a farewell dinner for Bob and Cathy M, Jeremy and Sandra noticed a power transformer on Baroona Road that was arcing and producing a pool of light. (A first surprised reaction was: "they've put in a street light!"). Jeremy carried out the correct procedures, to the letter: contacting the power company and giving them the address, a grid reference, and even the number of the pole; and requesting *Seven Alpha* (Nick) as a precautionary back-up. The Essential Energy truck was on scene within half an hour, and proceeded to cut off power to several nearby houses as they repaired the fault. *Alpha* was home by 2330.

A fire burning for some days south of Cooma along the Myalla Road became a major blaze (*Monday 10 March*) needing the attention of a number of brigades including Cooma, Brothers, Dalgety, Dry Plains and others. It had by then covered 600 hectares. On *Tuesday 11 March* Colinton *One* (Gaham, Jeremy) was put on stand-by at the station, but not called out; and *Seven Charlie* (Nick, Jeremy) was leaving for Myalla at 0600 on *Wednesday 12 March*, when word came that steady rain had fallen all night. ☞

## **Farewell:**

Bob and Cathy M and family have sold their property on Weemala Lane, and are moving to Canberra. Their involvement with the brigade goes back more than twenty years, with Bob serving variously as President, Deputy, Senior Deputy, Training Officer, and Treasurer, while Cathy has acted as call-out officer and constant supporter. We wish them well, and are pleased to note that Bob intends to continue his Executive role, and says

that he will be “only forty minutes from a fire!.”

### Climate:

The Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO this month released their State of the Climate 2014 Report, updating the Report of 2012. Important points are that warming of the whole of Australia has been observed and measured; that the continent as a whole is becoming wetter, but that SE Australia is becoming drier.

*“Further decreases in average rainfall are expected over southern Australia compared with the climate of 1980 to 1999: a zero to 20 per cent decrease by 2070 for low emissions; and a 30 per cent decrease to 5 per cent increase by 2070 for high emissions, with largest decreases in winter and spring.*

*“... Droughts are expected to become more frequent and severe in southern Australia.*

*“An increase in the number and intensity of extreme rainfall events is projected for most regions. The number of extreme fire-weather days is projected to grow in southern and eastern Australia; by 10 to 50 per cent for low emissions and 100 to 300 per cent for high emissions, by 2050 compared with the climate of 1980 to 1999.”*

The complete document is at:

<http://www.csiro.au/en/Outcomes/Climate/Understanding/State-of-the-Climates-2014.aspx>

### Nature - no match for man:

*adapted from Alexandra Smith. SMH January 24*

Almost 150 fines and 2800 formal warning letters were sent to people who threw cigarette butts from cars in the final three months of last year, even while bushfires were raging in the Blue Mountains.

Figures from the Environment Protection Authority reveal that between September

1 and December 31, EPA officers fined an average 50 people a month for throwing burning butts out car windows.

Another 2858 people were sent formal warning letters after other motorists reported them to the EPA.

Motorists can be fined \$200 for littering from a car but throwing a burning cigarette during fire seasons is considered "aggravated littering" and the fine is increased to \$375.

Cigarette butts and other human activity, ranging from arson to fires accidentally lit by children, or falling power lines, are responsible for more than 90% of bushfires in NSW.

RFS figures show there were 6381 bush, scrub and grass fires between July last year and January 21 this year, including 4756 which were the result of human activity.



*Training ... Teija joins two lengths of 25mm hose*

## 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.*** ☞



*Training ... Eliska brings in the wet hoses*

## Training (2):

After doing “property protection” in real earnest at the Murrumbucca fire, the brigade held an exercise to include all those who had not done it in real life. Two houses were chosen, close to the station so as not to waste time travelling, and two trucks were allocated to each house. Crew leader Michael set the scenario: a fire approaching rapidly from the north-west, winds gusting to 50 km/hr, temperature 40C. An unpleasant (fictional) day. A standard procedure is to park the vehicles in the lee of the buildings (while the truck protects the

house, the house protects the truck), carry out a recce, start the pump, roll out two lengths of hose, as well as the ‘active reel’: the hose man fights the fire, the second, on the active line, protects the first, while the pump operator keeps an eye on the bigger picture. When this was all done, crews returned to the station where acting-OICs Karl and Tony R gave an account of what their crews had done. And then of course, wet hoses have to be dried, and water tanks refilled ... for next time. ☞

## 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. ☞



*Training ... Teija recovers a wet hose*



Items for *The Colinton Courier* to Nick Goldie at  
[horehound@yless4u.com.au](mailto: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:



Corporate Design  
 Et Print Solutions  
 and to



**M & T MOTORS**

**24 Hour Towing - Mechanical Repairs**  
**6452 5250 – 0414 484 180**

*The Colinton Courier* is also available at  
[www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

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



**All members are urged to attend  
 the Annual General Meeting  
 and Election of Office Bearers of  
 the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade  
 to be held on  
 Saturday May 10 2014.**

**The AGM will start at two  
 o'clock, after a short meeting of  
 the outgoing Executive at twelve  
 o'clock.**

**The Executive meeting will be  
 followed by a barbecue between  
 one and two o'clock.**



Your Local Painter

**Bob Davis**

0408 697 070

Have Brush will Travel



*Training ... winding-in the active reel*



**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**

