

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 149* April 2014



*BF course: Carolyn a-bowling
(photo SL)*

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:

(Nick reports: coming home from Cooma on at lunch time on Friday 21 March with a car full of groceries, I was watching one of those odd little isolated storms, a sort of black lump of cloud above Bredbo. There was one huge bolt of lightning, which seemed to reach the ground near the communications tower; by the time I reached the 'rabbit farm' I could see the hilltop opposite was blazing. So I called Fire Control on the radio ...)

Sixteen trucks, two graders and two bulk water carriers were needed to deal with what was called the Cosgrove fire, just south of Bredbo. Seven *Alpha* (Karl, Teija, Nick) was early on scene, joining the Bredbo crews fighting a long fire-edge blown to the south from the initial lightning strike.

Captain Graham cut short his business in Cooma, and joined the fray in Bredbo *One*, while *Colinton One* and *Seven Charlie* were variously crewed by James P, Michael B, Eliška, Sandra, Jeremy, John and Martin.

The western flank of the fire was contained along a grader line parallel with the highway, which allowed the property owner to move stock to unburned paddocks. By evening, the fire activity was all on the eastern side of the communication tower, with some hot work before a perimeter was established. Patrolling continued for some hours, and crews were stood down at around ten o'clock. Some 200 hectares of lovegrass were burned, there were no stock losses, and one threatened homestead was safely defended.

✍

Fire Season ends:

The official bushfire danger season ended with the last day of March. This means that permits to light a fire are no longer required. However it's not always simple, even out of season. There are a number of factors to consider before striking that match. Is it an agricultural burn that you are planning? Do you need an environmental permit? Have you informed your local brigade, and your neighbours, 24 hours before lighting up?

For details, see:

http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/file_system/attachments/State08/Attachment_20120824_635CF0D2.pdf



Future burns:

Brigades are already looking towards future hazard reduction burns which may be carried out in the cooler months, by land-holders or the brigades themselves.

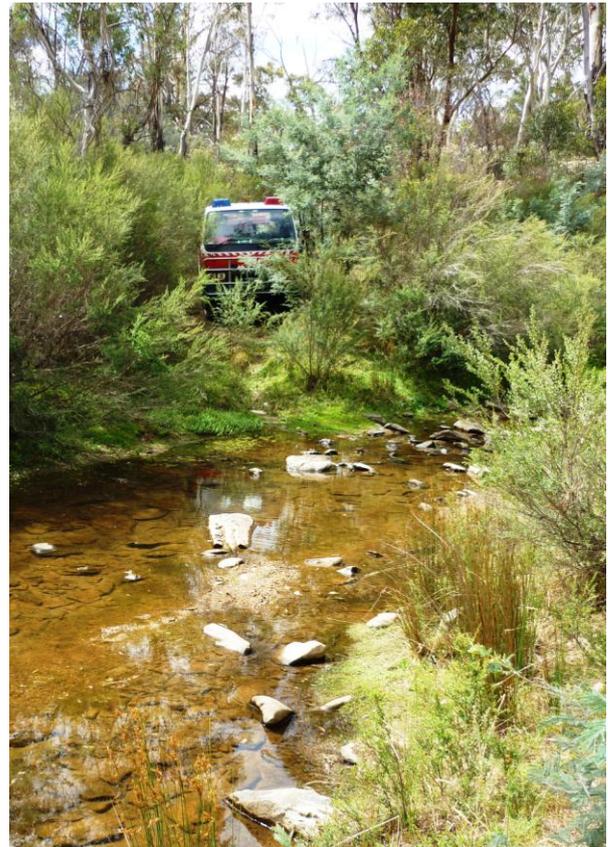
On *Saturday 16 March*, Captain Graham carried out an extensive drive in Seven Bravo (Michael B, Nick), to assess a very large planned burn to the east of the Calabash Fire Trail. The terrain is bounded by the Fire Trail, by the 600 hectares owned by the Southern Tablelands 4WD Club, and by the Strike-A-Light River. The river is at this time no more than a series of bushy pools. The terrain is steep and mostly thick bush, and will require extensive work with a bulldozer to establish a perimeter.



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.



Bravo on the banks of the Strike-A-Light River

Basic Firefighters:

Twenty new members of local brigades (Colinton, Smiths Road, Bredbo, Michelago) took part in a two-day Basic Firefighter course at Colinton on *Saturday and Sunday 5 & 6 April*. Instructors were Graham, Jeremy, Nick, Dave K, with assistance from Sandra and Michael B.

The BF course is intensive (the manual is like a telephone book), with a mixture of theory and practical firefighting. The new RFS Leadership and Development Officer Tim Ingram was in overall charge, and has plans to further streamline the course with an emphasis on the practical aspects.

Village Firefighter and Advanced Firefighter courses are to be arranged, also Rural Driving and Chainsaw courses. Holders of a Chainsaw certificate must do a refresher course every three years.





L&D Officer Tim doing essential sausage work

Horses:

We're often told to *Prepare your house for bushfire*. The RFS website has an unexpected page: *Prepare your horse for bushfire*. This is a serious twelve-page document which any horse-owner should read – indeed, owners of any stock or domestic animals. It is chock-full of useful advice (even including spray-painting your phone number on your horse's flank, just in case). Simply Google "RFS horses" or go to the website:

http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/file_system/attachments/State08/Attachment_20121224_E8B30FC2.pdf

Membership:

Membership: please pay by cash at training, or cheque to The Treasurer, Colinton Rural Fire Brigade, PO Box 4829, Kingston ACT 2604.

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.



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.



Captains Meeting:

The usual end-of-fire-season meeting of all Captains, secretaries and Fire Control officers was held in Cooma on Wednesday 9 April. Issues discussed included the Section 44 fires in January and February; the Victorian fires; the state of fire trails in the Cooma-Monaro district, and plans for hazard reduction burns in the near future. Colinton Secretary Sandra also gave a brief description of the work she is doing with brigades, as part of her PhD research into the changing role and functions of rural fire brigades in the community.





BF course: Andrew and his rake-hoe



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



BF course: Lilly on the rake-hoe trail



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

