

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 152 * July 2014



The catering trailer at the sale: Michael, Julith, Karl (photo Andrew B)

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NSW RFSA Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Call out:

(Being a personal account sent as an email to an absent wife: NG)

Early to bed and early to rise ... the pager went off at 0630 (on *Friday 11 July*). It took me a few minutes to recognise what the sound was. A cryptic message: *MVA*. So I radioed Fire Control, who said there was an accident between Colinton and Michelago. Rounded up Jeremy and Karl, and set off in *Alpha* with untied bootlaces.

The radio clarified that the MVA was a single vehicle, near Kellys Road, and that Michelago *One* was also en route, also *Bravo* (Graham, Barry, Jacqui.) *Bravo* turned back when they heard that *Alpha* was on the way. We had the lights flashing, and when we got to the scene there were a couple of police cars and ambulances, and Michelago *One* under the charge of Derek.

In the middle of the road was a small Nissan 350 sports car, crushed like an egg. The police were letting traffic through, one lane at a time. The driver of the Nissan was taken away in an ambulance with a damaged arm.

We drove another 200 metres north, and found the truck which the Nissan had apparently hit. It had left the road, heading northwards, across the traffic, and FLOWN off the embankment on to a track about ten feet lower down, where it had come to a halt with smashed axles and wheels, but upright. The driver was shaking, and sucking on an unlit cigarette. We gently took him away from the spilt fuel as he borrowed a match from me. He said that the Nissan had hit a corner of his truck as he took evasive action.

On the flatbed tow truck was a Porsche Cayenne, which had slipped its mooring and gently crushed itself against the back of the cab.

We checked for fuel leaks, disconnected the truck battery, talked to the driver, sprayed a little preventive water. *Pumper 263*, the paid firies, arrived from Cooma. The crew included Chris and Ailish. We were allowed to stand down and go home at 0830.

Aha, I said to Tilley the dog at home, I will have a cup of tea and some toast with grilled tomatoes. Then the phone rang. It was Jeremy, with a flat battery. ☞



One way of going off-road in a Porsche

New NSW Native Vegetation Laws:

(adapted from the RFS Monaro website)

Under laws introduced into the NSW Parliament some residents will have additional powers to protect their homes from bush fires. The laws will come into effect at the end of July. *Note that until*

the new laws come into effect, existing regulations still apply.

See the RFS website for details, and for a series of *Frequently Asked Questions*.

When the laws come into effect, people with homes in designated bush fire zones will be able to clear trees within 10 metres of their home, and other vegetation except trees within 50 metres of their house.

The laws are designed to empower landowners to minimise the fuel loads near their homes. “A well prepared property, along with a completed Bush Fire Survival Plan, can minimise the risk of loss of life and property,” Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers says.

NSW Premier Mike Baird announced the measures on 29 May. “We saw last summer how devastating bush fires can be, which is why we are removing regulatory obstacles on homeowners who want to take sensible steps to protect their properties from bush fires,” Mr Baird said.

The legislation also applies to high-risk non-residential buildings, such as schools and hospitals in designated zones.

Eligible residents will not be able to begin clearing until after the laws are passed in NSW Parliament and the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice is finalised by the NSW RFS.

Residents will be able to check their eligibility using the NSW RFS web tool which will be available once the laws are passed.

You will be able to search for your property online to find out if you live in a 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area once the laws come into force. The online search will also let you know of any restrictions such as the slope of your property or areas of cultural significance which need to be protected. ☞

Clearing Sale:

Brigade members (Michael B, Barry, Andrew, Julith) assisted at the clearing sale at Colinton Cottage on *Saturday 21 June*. A large quantity of old farm machinery was for sale.



At the sale ... (photo Andrew B)

Michael B writes:

On a fine Saturday morning eager Colinton members hooked the catering trailer onto Barry's ute and travelled in convoy to the cottage for the clearing sale. The catering trailer was set up in prime location, BBQ lit, urn filled and turned on.

It wasn't long until the smell of bacon and eggs cooking on the BBQ filled the air, resulting in spectators purchasing bacon and egg rolls with a coffee or tea before wandering the paddock examining what was for sale.

By mid-morning the bacon and egg rolls were sold out and the second shift arrived when sausage sandwiches were sold.

A crowd of about 200 people were on-site and about 145 were registered.

When all the food was sold the catering trailer was packed up and was back in the shed by two o'clock. ↪

Basic Firefighter Course:

On the same day as the Clearing Sale (*Saturday 21 March*), a Basic Firefighter course was held at Fire Control Centre in Cooma. Colinton Brigade supplied three instructors (Graham, Jeremy, Nick) under the leadership of Learning and Development Officer Tim Ingram.

Eighteen new recruits took part in the course, from as far south as Dalgety. On the second day the course dealt with pumps, pumping and draughting.

L&D Officer Tim is currently going through the process of streamlining the Basic course, which in the past has grown to include a very large amount of information. New recruits are also being supplied with a personal log-book in which they can be progressively 'signed off' by an instructor or field officer as they become competent in elements of fire-fighting. ↪

Bushfire CRC:

After eleven years, the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre is closing. Its place will be taken by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, which has a broader and more international research focus.

The CRC program was set up in 1990 to bring together commercial and scientific programs and institutions. In the recent budget, CRC funding was reduced by \$80 million.

The Bushfire CRC published a series of *Fire Notes* on many aspects of fire research. Fire Notes are available at: <http://www.bushfirecrc.com/firenotes> ↪

Training:

The Colinton Brigade conducts training every month on the second Saturday, at 2 p.m., 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. ↪

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



Your Local Painter

Bob Davis

0408 697 070

Have Brush will Travel



Grant applications:

The Brigade has a number of grant applications still pending. We are not about to apply for a grant to follow the example of Falls Creek CFA, despite the cold winds. The Oversnow Pumper looks after ski lodges at the popular Victorian snow resort. ↪



Ready for winter at Falls Creek (Vic)



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

