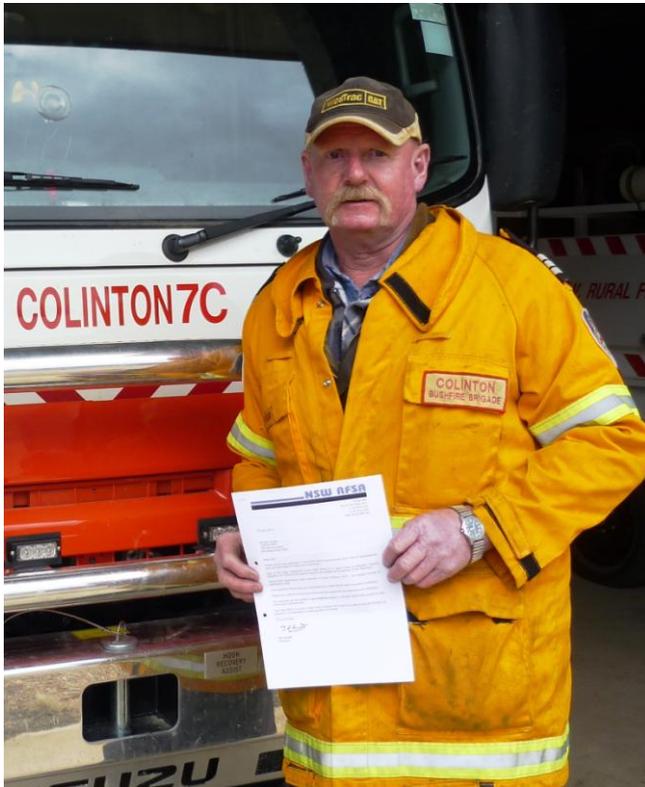


Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 153* August 2014



Captain Graham and the RFS letter

Committee 2014-2015:

Fire Captain: Graham Povey
Senior Deputy: Nick Goldie
Deputies: Bob Morison, Jeremy Mears, Michael Burton, Barry Woolacott
President: Michael Burton
Secretary: Sandra Lauer
Treasurer: Bob Morison
Training Officer: Jeremy Mears
Equipment Officers: Michael Burton, Karl Higgins
Community Awareness: Nick Goldie
Fundraising: Gill Robinson
Permits: Graham Povey

NSW RFS Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Call out:

Returning from Cooma at lunch time on *Monday 14 July* with a repaired tire for *Bravo*, Jeremy and Nick noticed a plume of smoke to the west of the highway. It turned out to be an untended grass fire on Weemala Lane, perhaps the result of burning off the previous day. *Alpha* (Jeremy, Karl, Nick) was soon on scene and the fire was quickly extinguished.

Mid-morning on *Sunday 27 July*, Michelago *Seven* responded to a Triple Zero call about a fire near the Highway. The fire turned out to be south of Ryrie Hill Road, so Colinton *Seven Alpha* (Jeremy, Sandra, Nick) was also despatched, while Michael B attended in his own vehicle. Colinton crews were stood down before leaving Baroona Road, as the fire was safely contained.

Cooma Fire Control requested Michelago Captain Brent to make it clear to the landholder that neighbours and the local fire brigade should have been informed, before the fire was lit.

Thursday 31 July was extremely windy. At around two o'clock, a grass fire was reported at Bunyan. The Cooma brigade was soon on scene and the Monaro Highway was closed for a time. The wind made the fire difficult to control, and trucks were despatched from NSW Fire and Rescue, Bredbo, Shannons Flat, and Numeralla, as well as Colinton *Seven Charlie* (Graham, Barry). *Seven Alpha* (Tony R, Nick) remained on stand-by for the next hour, when the fire was assessed to be contained. Crews remained mopping up on scene for some hours further.

At about the same time next day, *Friday 1 July*, a grass or hay fire was reported

on the eastern side of the highway near the Numeralla bridges. Units from NSW Fire and Rescue, Cooma, Bredbo and Colinton (Graham and Barry in *Charlie*) were despatched, but Bredbo and Colinton were stood down before reaching the scene. ↪

Fire Season:

The Bush Fire Danger Period normally extends from 1 October to 1 April. This can be altered by the local Bush Fire Management Committee. So far this year there has been no change for the Monaro. (If in doubt, consult your local brigade or the Cooma Fire Control Centre, 6455 0455.)

However, it was announced on ABC TV that in the north east of NSW the date has been advanced to Friday 1 August and the RFS is urging residents to prepare for the fire season now, due to continuing dry conditions across the North Coast, Mid North Coast and the New England Tablelands, with fire permits required now in these areas.

The RFS urges residents to complete a Bush Fire Survival Plan and ensure all members of the household know what to do on days of increased fire danger and if their home is threatened by fire.

"Residents should prepare their property by removing flammable materials from their yards, clearing gutters of leaves, checking hoses and conducting hazard reduction activities," Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers says. ↪

New Bushfire Clearing Rules:

adapted from ABC Country Hour

New Bushfire clearing rules and fines came into force this month.

RFS Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers says the changes are necessary to protect homes and firefighters in the lead

up to what could be a devastating fire season.

"We are calling it the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing entitlement. You can now find out if your property is in a 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Area using an online tool.

"The new laws allow people in a designated 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Area to clear trees on their property within 10 metres of a home, without seeking approval; and clear underlying vegetation such as shrubs (but not trees) on their property within 50 metres of a home, without seeking approval.

"New fines also come into force as well with fines of over \$1300 for improperly disposing of a lit cigarette.

"Fines also apply if fires are not properly extinguished and have the potential to spread and spark a major fire," Rob Rogers said. ↪

Mr Fluffy:

Adapted from the RFS Lake George Newsletter

"Mr Fluffy" and asbestos issues generally are not confined to the ACT.

Many NSW towns are known to have houses containing asbestos. When responding to a structure fire ALWAYS be aware of the possibility of Mr Fluffy hazards.

Asbestos may also have been illegally dumped in bush areas.

"There is a risk of encountering asbestos at even the most minor fire. If you do encounter a suspicious material, do not approach it. Remain at a safe distance, upwind, and report it immediately.

"Remember that your safety is our number one priority." ↪

Grants:

Good news: the Brigade has been notified by the Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) that a recent grant application has been successful, and that the Brigade will soon take delivery of a FLIR Thermal Imaging Camera. This clever piece of modern technology has become an essential part of modern fire suppression. It is able to pinpoint 'hot spots' whether in forest fire mopping up, or in structural or chimney fires. We look forward to reporting on FLIR in action. ↪

Training:

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

Your Local Painter

Bob Davis

0408 697 070

Have Brush will Travel



Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at nickgoldie@bigpond.com
02 6235 9190
by the first Saturday each month, or to any
Committee member. For production assistance we
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The Colinton Courier is also available at
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*Views expressed in The Colinton Courier are not
necessarily those of the editor, the Brigade, or the
RFS.*



Reminder:

The official

Bushfire Danger Season

opens on

1 October.

This means that

NO FIRES

may be lit without a permit.

All permits are revoked on days when
there is a

Total Fire Ban.



RFS OPEN DAY

The Colinton Brigade
invites our friends in the
community
to the

Annual Open Day

on

Saturday 13 September

at

Colinton Fire Station

to
meet the members
share a cuppa
roll out a hose
ride in a truck

discuss
the coming Fire Season

from
mid-morning
to
mid-afternoon

Everyone Welcome!



Catching them young .. Brooklyn on Alpha.



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

