

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 161* April 2015



While we wait – Sandra and Kirsty gathering native seeds

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 RFSA Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Fire season extended:

The official bushfire danger season normally finishes at the end of March. This year, in RFS Districts Lake George, Southern Tablelands, and Monaro District (including Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River) the *fire season has been extended* until midnight on **Thursday 30 April**.

This means that normal fire season rules apply: *no fires without a permit*, and no fires at all on days of Total Fire Ban. This extension does not apply to the ACT, where the fire season ended as usual on *31 March*.

Call out:

On *Friday 20 March*, Colinton 7 Bravo (Graham, Michael) was asked to assist Shannon's Flat crews and crews from ACT Parks with a hazard reduction burn along the ACT / NSW border at the southern end of Namadgi Nation Park, Two small 'spot-overs' occurred and were extinguished.

On *Saturday 21 March*, planned HR burns in the ACT were postponed, while crews from ACT Parks, Colinton, Shannons Flat, Cooma, Bredbo, Ridgeway (Queanbeyan), Bungendore, and Braidwood were assembled to deal with anticipated difficult conditions along the ACT border.

Colinton was represented by *Bravo* (Graham, Kim, Kirsty) and *Alpha* (Sandra, Hamish, Nick).

Much of the morning was spent waiting, in differing locations, or changing location, as plans were finalised.



Hamish lights along the Osborn fire-trail

By afternoon, it was apparent that the large force of vehicles and firefighters was largely not needed. The Colinton crews were kept busy with drip-torch work along the northern perimeter of the HR area. This work finished at dusk, and crews were home for their evening meal.

Late afternoon on *Thursday 26 March*, a fire was reported at Spring Valley on the Burra Road. Michelago Captain Brent called for all Michelago vehicles to be rolled out, and for assistance from Colinton. Seven *Alpha* (Jeremy, Nick) was soon on the road. The fire was on the wooded escarpment to the west of the Burra Road. A very steep track led to the summit ridge, where the three Cat Sevens spend a not-very-fruitful couple of hours, trying to work out a plan of attack, as the fire was in such steep country. The Colinton truck was sent home as the sun set.

The following morning, *Alpha* was again on the road (Barry, Daniel, Nick) and

again sent to the summit ridge. The fire was occasionally visible, far below, but as nothing could be achieved from the ridge, *Alpha* was sent to the southern edge of the fire, near the homestead, where there were a number of hot spots. Multiple lengths of hose were rolled out, and the fire was out by mid-afternoon.

The Shannons Flat HR burn continued over the weekend *27/28 March*, with Colinton represented by Seven *Charlie* (Kim, Michael E.) and on Monday *30 March*, *Bravo* (Graham, Kirsty). ☺



Spring Valley - lunch on the fire-ground

Snakebite:

Like much First Aid, snake-bite treatment has changed over the years. Modern First Aid emphasises that snake-bite victims must be kept calm; that the bitten limb must be bandaged, and that the patient be kept still. Movement encourages the venom to travel around the body.

Stillness and compression bandaging can give hours of safety.

If the patient is in a remote area, steps must be taken to stretch the patient out to an ambulance or helicopter.

According to the recent First Aid manual, the bitten limb must be bandaged, starting with the bite site, then from extremity to inner joint, using a crepe bandage. However according to a recent expert demonstration by a trained member of Wildcare, crepe bandage is inadequate: the safer dressing is a standard three meter length of medium/high compression bandage. Every First Aid kit should have a roll. ↪



Seven Alpha on the high ridge above Spring Valley

Training:

The Colinton Brigade conducts training every month on the second Saturday, at 2.00 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. ↪



Spring Valley: 150m of hose snakes its way up to the flames



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 are grateful to:



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





Farm Sheds: the good, the bad, and the dangerous

Open Day

**“Ingelara”
Monaro Highway
Sunday 17 May
10.00 – 3.00**

***Stalls * Entertainment *
Explosions Snakes* BBQ***



**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**



Annual General Meeting:

All members of the Brigade are urged to attend the Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers for 2015-2016.

The AGM will be held as part of the Brigade’s routine training day, Saturday 9 May.

Members are invited to share a BBQ from one o’clock, with the AGM starting at two, after a noon meeting of the outgoing Executive.



Bogged at Shannons Flat: Alpha going nowhere ...