

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 162 \* April 2015



## Safer Sheds

### Open Day

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

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



#### **Committee 2015-2016:**

**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,  
Eliška Donaldson  
**Fundraising:** Gill Robinson  
**Permits:** Graham Povey  
  
**NSW RFSA Delegate:** Jeremy Mears

#### **Call out:**

On *Monday 13 April*, Colinton assisted Bredbo with a large love-grass burn near Billilingara Road. Seven *Alpha* was crewed by Michael B and Karl; *Charlie* by Graham, Kirsty and Rowan. The burn came to an end when a damp heavy mist covered the area. Crews were home by 2300 hrs. 

#### **Annual General Meeting:**

The AGM and election of office bearers was held on Saturday 9 April (see panel). Brigade President Michael delivered his annual report. The election was chaired by Cr Winston Phillips. One new addition was Eliška being elected as assistant Community Awareness Officer. 

#### **Fire Season:**

The extended bush fire season finished at the end of April. This means that permits are no longer required for fires, but the Brigade urges anyone planning to light a fire to use reasonable caution, to keep an eye on wind and weather, and (as a courtesy) let your neighbours and the Brigade know what you are planning. 

#### **From the President's Report 2015: (from Michael B)**

Thanks to all our members, not just the active members, but to the friends of the brigade who have supported the Brigade in their own way throughout the year.

A big thank you to Julith who again has done a wonderful job keeping us fed and watered.

Thanks to Noreen and her team of call-out officers – under their direction, we

were able to provide crews as requested to the incidents we attended.

Thanks to Brigade members who have attended training, hazard reduction burns and fires during the year; compared to other years, this year has been relatively quiet and I don't think anyone could remember such a quiet summer.

The brigade newsletter, the Colinton *Courier* has continued its monthly production, unbroken since September 2001. The Brigade is grateful to KwikKopy of Phillip who have printed the *Courier* for a decade, at no cost to the Brigade and this year also took on the supply of paper. Sponsorship has also been received from M&T Motors of Cooma.

The Brigade was successful in another grant application, for the '*Farm shed safety day*'. All stakeholders met in February to organise the safety day, with *Sunday 17 May* being locked in to hold this event.

Training in March consisted of some hands on practice with the training AED's (defibrillators) and the training dummies. Kieran provided some sobering advice as to what is expected from Brigade members when the Paramedics arrive. In essence, if Brigade members are performing CPR we are to continue until the paramedics tell us otherwise.

Rotary held their annual dinner at the Michelago Hall involving the Tuggeranong and Cooma branches and Brigade members were involved with providing food, waiting tables or washing dishes. A great evening was had by all and thanks to all who contributed

In May, the Cooma-Monaro *Express* ran a front page story recognising Graham's appointment as a life member of the Brigade.

Colinton members participated in the chainsaw course held on a property on

the Jerangle Road which again was a great success with new skills learnt and old skills refined.

In August, the Brigade was successful in obtaining a grant from the RFS for a thermal imaging camera.

RFS Open day coincided with our normal training day. Inspector Langdon Gould presented Jeremy Mears with a Long Service Medal acknowledging 10 years of continuous and dedicated service.



Whilst Jeremy was discussing the dangerous items that can be found in sheds within the Colinton area, the Brigade had a surprise visit from Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM. Training stopped for afternoon tea with the Commissioner.

Nick received a '*Member for Monaro Service Award*' from John Barilaro. This medal recognised Nick's contributions to the local community and on behalf of the Brigade. Congratulations to Nick for receiving this award.

Driver Reviver finished for another year on the October long weekend. Thanks to Gill and Sandra for their hard work keeping the Driver Reviver shed stocked with goodies and for their rostering skills.

We have a Brigade to be proud of. Once again thank you everyone for your support and assistance over the last 12 months.



## Report from Boise, Idaho: Goats, Smokejumpers and Cheat Grass (Part 1 of 2).

*Sandra writes:* My abstract was accepted for the International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF) conference *Managing Fire, Understanding Ourselves: Human Dimensions in Safety and Wildland Fire*, so in April Jeremy and I travelled to Boise, Idaho in the USA.

My presentation was about my PhD research in the Monaro, especially the historical perspective.

I use the professionalisation of rural fire management as an example. The case study of our area resonated with many seasoned firefighters from across the globe - USA, France, Canada, New Zealand, UK, Spain, Portugal, Russia and a substantial contingent from Australia (Tas, Vic, NSW).



*Sandra presenting in Boise, Idaho*

The conference included field trips and volunteer activities. One was to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), home to the national offices of all federal wildland fire management agencies (e.g. US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service etc.) and the operational facilities that supply radios, equipment and aerial across the USA.

We also visited the Wildland Firefighter Monument and memorial garden which commemorates fallen wildland firefighters

We were lucky to be allowed a quick tour of the Smokejumpers base at Boise airport. Normally this is not included as part of the tour. The smokejumpers were gearing up for the fire season in the USA. Not only are they trained in jumping out of planes, but must also sew all their own clothes and parachutes and keep them in good repair throughout the season.

Another highlight of the trip was a silent auction, and I managed to win a traditional leather fire helmet (no longer standard issue).

Interestingly, I learned that two species of African Lovegrass were introduced into Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas to assist with stabilizing soils and provide fodder, particularly during the 1980s and 1990s. Another introduced grass, Cheat grass is causing issues with fire management, just as Lovegrass does around the Monaro.

*(to be continued).*



### 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.***





Jeremy (bravely) on the fire rescue ladder

❧

Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at  
[nickgoldie@bigpond.com](mailto:nickgoldie@bigpond.com)  
 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.

❧

❧

**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**

❧



Prevent wildfires!