

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 164* July 2015



After a night of heavy frost, Lovegrass is cured to perfection

Committee 2015-2016:

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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:

Nil

Letters to the Editor:

Brigade Captain Graham sent the following letter to the newspaper *The Land*, following correspondence over some months. It was published on 2 July.

Sunday 28 June: Recent letters to The Land have questioned the need to inform the local Fire Control Centre when lighting a fire in the open. Ross Skene (June 26) goes so far as to ask "What about when we have a picnic with our family or our city cousins? Come on, let's get real."

Ross Skene should be aware that, of course, he can have a BBQ with his city cousins, any time except when there is a Total Fire Ban, so long as the fire is in a properly constructed fire place, surrounded by a cleared area, and in the charge of an adult.

While the bushfire season is the most dangerous, fires can and do occur in any month.

In many parts of NSW including the Monaro, there are infestations of weeds and grasses such as African Lovegrass which is highly flammable at any time of the year. (Lovegrass is cured by frost to create a perfect fuel.)

Before lighting any sort of fire which will be visible beyond the boundary fence, it is simple good manners to inform the neighbours. It is also a courtesy to inform

the local Brigade, who may otherwise be called out to investigate a smoke sighting.

Every call-out costs volunteers' time and ratepayers' money.

Please, let's get real and do the right thing when planning a burn – all year round.

Signed

Graham Povey, Captain, Colinton Rural Fire Brigade.

(0419 406 908)

Nick Goldie, Sen. Dep. Captain, Colinton Rural Fire Brigade.

(02 6235 9190)



Lovegrass in winter: let your neighbours know if you plan to burn

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.

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.

Do-gooders:

adapted from The Canberra Times

A recent issue of *The Canberra Times* carried the story of a woman who observed what she thought was a man lighting a fire in scrubland, in early January this year. She asked the man what he was doing, and said that she would report the fire to emergency services.

“Why would you want to do that?” the man replied. “F*****g do-gooder!”

An interesting response. The man is standing trial.



Training ... Shaun knows his way round the Cat One

Date and time:

Surely somebody noticed? The editor of *The Courier* certainly didn't. Somehow we managed to produce two following issues datelined "April", and followed this glitch with May and June as per normal. The error has been corrected in our files, so this issue is dated "July". Apologies for any confusion. 



Training: foam in the water tank prevents the pump from working. The foam (which is environmentally benign) has to be flushed out



**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**



Canadian activities:

While the Monaro shivers and the Tinderry Mountains show a spectacular covering of snow, around 150 of our fire-fighting colleagues are departing for the extreme heat of Canada.

More than 500 fires are burning in the Canadian north-west.

According to an ABC report, Australian and New Zealand firefighters are expected to stay in Canada until the end of August.

The ABC says: *The area of forest burnt in Canada this season so far is about four times greater than the 472,000 hectares burnt in 2014.*

Ag Burn:

As discussed above, it is a courtesy to your neighbours and the community to inform them, and the Brigade, if you are going to create any smoke, even though at this time of year a permit is not required.

A couple of our local residents who run horses on Weemala Lane were concerned at the rapid growth of Lovegrass in their paddocks.

Being brave, they put a match to the Lovegrass. Being sensible, they then rapidly extinguished the flames, which had taken off with a heat and ferocity which they had not expected.

The landowners then asked the Brigade for assistance. The result was that the two landowners carried out their own small Agricultural Burn, having told their neighbours, and with some Brigade members (also neighbours) in attendance.

This was excellent practice for Brigade members seeking to advance their qualifications. It was also an object lesson in the behaviour of African Lovegrass – the night before, the temperature had dropped to minus seven Celsius. Even so, and on a still day, the burn created flames that were three meters high and very hot

(See photos on p.1,2.)



GET READY WEEKEND – GET INVOLVED!

If there were a fire emergency how prepared would you be?
Can fire trucks access your property?
Does everyone in your household know your emergency plan?
Have you considered your livestock and pets?

We didn't have many fires locally last bushfire season.

The forecast for this bushfire season is DRY and HOT.

We expect there will be more fires in our area during the summer months.

NOW is the time to prepare your plan.

On the **12th and 13th of September** volunteer members of Colinton Rural Fire Brigade will be visiting properties in our area to discuss:

- your Bushfire Survival Plan
- Asset Protection Zones (APZs)
 - your water supply
- access for emergency vehicles to your property.

Sessions of up to an hour are available.

To schedule a time for brigade volunteers to visit your property contact
Eliska Donaldson
on 0438 850 313 or
colinton@monarorfs.org.au.

Take the time to GET READY for the bushfire season.

To download a Bushfire Survival Plan, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

