

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 169\* December 2015



*ABO training - Jeremy puts the red stuff on the red stuff (photo: Meg Henry)*

## **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:**

At around 0700 on *Sunday 22 November* the Brigade was alerted to a motor vehicle accident on Gungoandra Hill. A single vehicle had swerved to avoid a kangaroo, and ended up on its roof, blocking one lane of the highway. Seven *Bravo* (Graham) was first on the scene, with *Alpha* (Jeremy, Sandra, Nick) not far behind. The two trucks were joined by an ambulance and a police vehicle, and were mainly employed with flashing lights to control early-morning traffic. Crews were home by 1000.

At noon on *Thursday 26 November* (the second of two violently windy days) there was a call for a grass fire just north of Bredbo. *Alpha* (Jeremy, Nick) was soon on the road, along with *Bravo* (Graham) while *One* (Kim, Tony R, Laurence, Daniel) was ready to leave the station. All Colinton crews were then stood down, as Bredbo units had the fire contained: a small grass fire, moving rapidly towards some buildings. The fire started close to the Highway. ✍

## **Welcome:**

A warm welcome to five new Brigade members: Leo, Laurence, Laura, Tali and Callum. ✍

## **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.*** ✍

## **Air Base Operators:**

*from Sandra L*

To prepare for the upcoming fire season, Monaro aviation team members refreshed their Air Base Operator (ABO) skills at Jindabyne airport in November.

Three volunteers from Colinton RFB (Sandra, Jeremy and Michael E) plus three other Monaro volunteers and two ACT RFS volunteers attended the workshop.

As we will be working closely with ACT RFS and NSW Parks during the fire season, it was a great chance to learn how to set up and use the local Monaro "Phos-Chek" retardant tank/loader.

Thanks to Graham Weston from NSW Parks for running the day and showing us the ropes.



*ABO training – setting up the retardant loader (photo: Sandra)*

With the recent very high fire danger days, our local Monaro RARTs (Rapid Aerial Response Team) plus helicopters were "stood up" on a few occasions at Cooma and Hume.

Hume airbase even had a visit from one of the Erickson Air Cranes, "Gypsy Lady", and she was on standby for our region during that day.

In other Monaro RFS aviation news, Peter Davis from Cooma RFB was rostered on for a week at Richmond airbase as an "air attack supervisor" in charge of leading the LATs (large air tankers) and VLATs (very large air tankers).

Each LAT or VLAT requires the air attack supervisor to fly ahead in a smaller plane and direct when/where the load of retardant should be dropped. The DC10 plane (a VLAT) carries the equivalent of 15 Category 1 fire tankers (like our Colinton *One*) or 45,000 litres. It can be at Cooma in 50 minutes, dropping retardant or water in strips of up to 38m wide and 1200m long.

Colinton *One* has a top speed of 100 km/h (downhill) whereas the DC10 has a top speed of 695 km/h!

❧  
**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**

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*ABO training – Jeremy runs the Phos-Chek pump (photo: Sandra)*

### **Scorcher:**

*Adapted from an interview with Prof David Karoly, U Melb, and Dr Karl Braganza, BoM, in The Conversation, 26 November 2015.*

2015 will likely be the hottest year on record, according to a preliminary analysis released by the World Meteorological Organization.

Worldwide temperatures are expected for the first time to reach more than 1°C above pre-industrial temperatures.

The five years from 2011-2015 will also likely be the hottest five-year period on record.

Average global atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations over three months also hit 400 parts per million for the first time during the southern hemisphere Autumn this year.

On top of this, we are experiencing one of the strongest El Niño events ever recorded.

According to Dr Karl Braganza, head of climate monitoring at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, these climate milestones are both symbolic and highly significant.

“One degree is half way to the 2 degree guardrail of warming that the global community is aiming for in terms of future climate change,” Dr Braganza said.

“400 parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is a composition that the climate system has not likely seen in probably the past 2.5 million years.”

In Australia, 2015 is likely to fall into the top 10 warmest years on record, all of which have occurred this century. ↪

### **Angus:**

*A heart warming story – or is it just the silly season? (From ABC News)*

A dog which took shelter under a bed has survived a unit fire with the help of emergency workers who located the pup and administered oxygen.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) crews were called to the Moore Road unit in Vermont South about 6:30pm on Sunday when neighbours reported smoke inside the property. Crews were able to bring the blaze, which was believed to have started in a television, under control.

The unit's owner, who was not home at the time, contacted fire crews and asked them to look for her pet dog Angus, who was inside.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus did another search of the home and found Angus hiding under an upstairs bed.

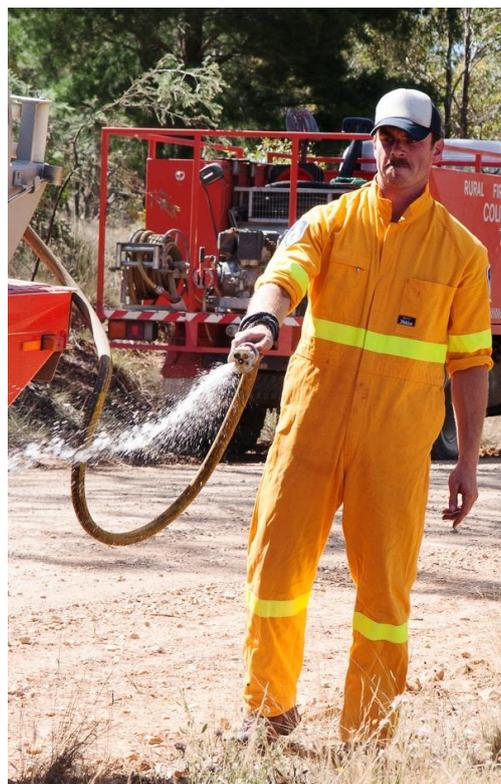
The dog was given oxygen and recovered quickly. A fire department spokesman

said animals responded to oxygen in the same way as people.

Angus got a bath and is recovering with his grateful owner. 



*Now Angus, breathe in ...*



*over-run training: Callum (photo: Sandra)*



Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at [nickgoldie@bigpond.com](mailto:nickgoldie@bigpond.com)  
02 6235 9190

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**We wish all our  
members and friends  
a**

**safe**

**and  
happy  
festive season**

