

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 173* April 2016



Andrew: hazard reduction burn at Kybeyan

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

Jack Povey 1922 - 2016:

At the 2003 Annual General Meeting members voted to change the Colinton Brigade Constitution so as to be able to create Life Members of the Brigade, and immediately voted to award the first Life Membership to Jack Povey.

Jack died on Tuesday 22 March, aged 93, after a brief stay in the Sir William Hudson Memorial Centre Nursing Home in Cooma.

Graham's father Jack was an outstanding firefighter. Remembering the Tinderry fire of 1957, he recalled: "I was out there for the full week. I never came home during that time.

"I was like a kangaroo and lay down in the tussock for a bit of a doze when I had the chance. We never had the equipment we do now to get out there. We walked or went by horse. Once you got out there, you may as well stop there.

"You never got fed. Not like today. You would carry something with you or you would just go hungry. You never had a lot of drinking water and you would be lucky if you had two drinks a day from a creek. The fire burnt itself out on the other side of Jerangle."

Jack's funeral was held on *Monday 4 April* in Bredbo. About 130 friends and neighbours attended, with members of the Colinton Brigade forming a guard of honour. The funeral was followed by refreshments in the Bredbo Hall.

The Brigade offers condolences to Graham, and to friends and members of his family.



Call out:

There were no call-outs for the month, but members participated in several Hazard Reduction burns. On Wednesday 13 April, Seven *Charlie* (Andrew, Nick) joined Bredbo *Nine* (James, Peter) and Cooma *Nine* (Alicia, Ben) conducting a burn of 170ha in the Kybeyan area, in an area of re-growth bounded on one side by part of the 20km electrified dog fence and its easement – an excellent HR burn boundary.

On Thursday 14 April, Andrew and Tony R joined crews from Cooma, Numeralla and Shannons Flat carrying out an HR burn on Mt Gladstone near Cooma. ↪

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. ↪

Courses:

The Training Action Group under Learning and Development Officer Tim has held a series of meetings, and exchanged flurries of emails.

Members who have completed courses such as Bush Firefighter (previously known as Basic), Advanced Firefighter, Crew Leader and others, will find there have been a number of changes (though this does not affect qualifications already attained).

Two significant changes are the introduction of a Grasslands version of Village Firefighter, and some of the content of the Advanced course. This has gained some of the 'leadership' aspects of the old Crew Leader course.

The Advanced Firefighter course is now divided into four modules, which are presented over four Saturdays. The first course (CSW) concentrating mainly on safety and welfare aspects of firefighting, was presented by Tim on *Saturday 2 April*, with Nick and Aldo in attendance as assistant trainers. AF candidates came from Michelago, Bredbo, Corrowong Berridale and Shannons Flat.

Members are encouraged to nominate for courses through MyRFS. Start with *My Profile*, then *Training Centre, Course Type* and follow the links. ↪

Fire Season ends:

The official Bush Fire Danger Period ended on the 31st of March.

Happily, the predicted fiery summer did not eventuate, but locally there has been heavy growth of grass which still poses a danger.

Since July, the RFS has responded to 6912 bush and grass fires, involving 64,572 hectares.

Owing to the mild conditions in NSW, the RFS was able to send crews to assist in areas where there were in fact devastating fires: Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

Fire permits are not required outside the Fire Danger period, but property owners conducting hazard reduction burns do need to have a Hazard Reduction Certificate before lighting up. These are obtainable at no cost from the local Fire Control Centre.

The Brigade urges anyone planning a fire to

- use caution and common sense
- let the Brigade know
- as a courtesy, let the neighbours know

- have adequate tools and water on site

* Note that not all Local Government Areas have ended their Fire Danger period.



Where there's smoke ...

The end of the official bushfire season sees an increase in the number of Hazard Reduction burns in the district, and a great increase in the amount of smoke in the atmosphere. This can cause eye and nose irritation, so if you are sensitive to smoke, try to stay indoors.

Large plumes of smoke coming from 'just the other side of the hill' can also be alarming, and there are sometimes glitches in the supply of information, especially if the burn is the other side of a border (eg ACT/NSW).

It may be comforting to know that the smoke is coming from a planned and controlled Hazard Reduction burn, and to get some idea of how far away is the source of the smoke.

Some years ago, CSIRO and Geoscience Australia developed a satellite-based online map called *Sentinel* showing current hotspots.

This has been revamped and upgraded by Geoscience, using the Japanese satellite Himawari-8.

Sentinel has an excellent topographic satellite-based image which can be screwed down to a very high resolution, and a clever click-operated measurement application, enabling you to say: "aha, that fire is in the ACT and is 12 km due west of here ..."

The URL is

<http://sentinel.ga.gov.au/#/main>

The RFS also has a website **Fires Near Me**, with an interactive map on which all fires are named and briefly described:

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>

The ACT has a similar website, which also mentions motor vehicle accidents:

<http://esa.act.gov.au/community-information/incidents-map/>



US Fires:



We have become used to massive forest fires in the west, especially in Northern California.

This month the news is from the central states, South Dakota, Oklahoma and Kansas, where unusual patterns have had winds sweeping down from the north.

The map shows 'red flag' (extreme) areas in early April.





Annual General Meeting:

All members of the Brigade are urged to attend the Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers for 2016-2017.

The AGM will be held as part of the Brigade's routine training day, *Saturday 14 May.*

The AGM will start at two, after a 12.30 meeting of the outgoing Executive, and will be followed by afternoon tea.



Copy-book HR burning at Kybeyan



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:



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

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**

