

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 176\* July 2016



*Entrenched Karl*

## **Committee 2016-2017:**

**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

## **Call out:**

On the evening of *Thursday 16 June*, a fire was reported on Poveys Road. Seven *Bravo* (Graham) and *Alpha* (Karl, Nick) were able to deal with the two flanks of the small grass fire, and were able to return home in good time. ✍

## **Open Day Saturday 10 September:**

Everyone is invited to meet Brigade members and have a look at our equipment and vehicles, during the course of the usual Brigade training day: *Saturday 10 September*, from two p.m. until four. ✍

## **Victorian worm-can:**

There's general agreement that the Victorian firefighters' dispute is a State issue, despite some attempts to re-brand it as a Federal government matter.

However it must be of some interest to firefighters anywhere in Australia.

There are real differences between the States and their administration of paid and volunteer firefighting forces. A problem in Victoria may simply not exist in NSW or Tasmania. In the ACT there is a division of labour between the volunteer ACT RFS and the (career) ACT Fire and Rescue, similar to the NSW RFS, with the difference that ACT RFS crews do not attend motor vehicle accidents. In Tasmania, a single organisation manages both career firefighters and volunteers.

In Victoria, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) has 800 career firefighters and some 60,000 volunteers. A few Victorian

brigades are integrated – that is, they have both paid and volunteer members.

The main body of paid career firefighters make up the Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB).

The ongoing dispute, which has been sensationally reported by the *Herald Sun*, is in fact a series of interlocking disputes, with a 2010 Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) between the United Firefighters Union (UFU) and the CFA at the centre. Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFVB) represents the interests of Victorian volunteers, and they are at odds with both CFA management and the UFU. The UFU, in turn, is supported by the Victorian Government, partners in the original EBA with the union.

From a rural volunteer standpoint, the threat is that a predatory union seems to be attempting to impose its (paid) members on to local, volunteer, activities, with the unwelcome inference that volunteer crews can't cope and need professional help.

The professionals say that they are asking for minimum standards of training and equipment, and that small local volunteer brigades are increasingly being overtaken by the fact of Victoria's massive urban and semi-urban expansion.

A clear account of this complicated dispute can be found online on *The Conversation*. There are some significant comments, giving various points of view. Although there are genuine points of dispute, a common thread is that local volunteer brigades mostly have no problems working with local paid fireys and hope that it goes on that way.

See:

<http://theconversation.com/whats-the-victorian-governments-dispute-with-the-cfa-about-and-how-will-it-affect-the-election-6163>



*Training: dummy Nicole as the driver at a (serious!) motor vehicle accident*

### **Be sure to keep warm:**

Some of the older members of the Brigade were surprised to learn that their “call-out jackets” were no longer considered appropriate wear for call-outs.

These black wool jackets have evolved over the years as official firefighting clothing – there are some earlier models in a cupboard at the Station – and they were for a time issued as “personal” equipment, as one size does not fit all.

Members who are lucky enough to have one are very reluctant to part with them.

However, according to RFS Standard Operating Procedure 5.1.5-2, the wool jackets are not to be used for firefighting.

This would include motor vehicle accidents.

A new-style padded yellow fire-retardant jacket is to become standard issue. It will be issued to trucks, rather than to individuals.

Meanwhile, according to Fairfax Media, our paramedic colleagues at Tumut, Batlow and Tumberumba are complaining that they too are having cold weather problems.

While their colleagues at Jindabyne and Perisher have thermal gear appropriate to mountain weather, a spokesman said they had asked but not received anything beyond normal paramedic gear. "It's a bit of joke," he said. "We only have to drive 10km out of Tumut and we're in the absolute extreme!"



*Sandra and Bernard – on Driver-Reviver duty*

### **Driver-Reviver in action:**

Volunteers from the Brigade are once again staffing Driver-Reviver at the Colinton Rest Area, assisted by Rotary (Tuggeranong). More volunteers are always welcome, as traffic builds up during the ski season.

### **Excavations:**

With a large roof area, and a sizeable rainwater tank, there should be no problems concerning the water supply, especially with the wet autumn we have just endured or enjoyed.

Why then was there so little water in the tank?

While some members of the Brigade took part in routine training (*Saturday 9 July*) with Bob, others created a series of excavations to find "the blockage", or possibly "the leak".

As the original plumbing had been done by qualified tradesmen and a back-hoe, the exploratory trench was quite substantial. Taking turns with the spade were Karl, Sandra, Rowan, Nick, Graham and Michael.

Eventually the main underground pipe was unearthed, and a section cut out of it, while water was pumped into the system from *Seven Alpha*. Mysteriously, it failed to reappear.

The cut pipe was given a temporary splice, and there was mention of hiring a back-hoe to uncover the rest of the pipeline.

It was then that Barry, talking to the new neighbour, discovered a small underground valve, presumably installed so as to drain the system if needed.

It was open. Oh.

### **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.***



Rowan: "Will this get my face into the Courier?"

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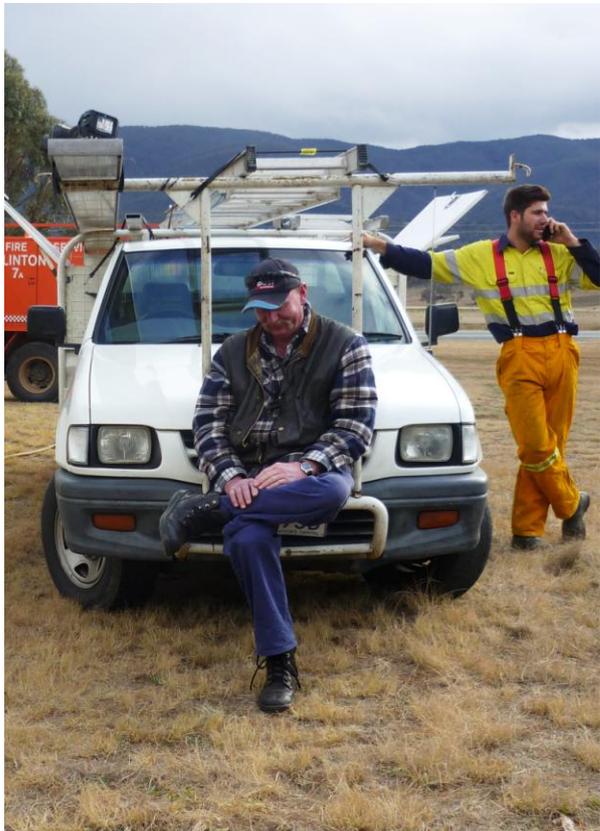
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RFS.*

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Captain Graham as site foreman