

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 180\* November 2016



*Costa Lunga: flames protecting a tree from the flames*

## **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:**

Early afternoon on *Sunday 6 November*, a small fire started on a property on Mount Colinton Road. The landholder was mowing near his house – doing the right thing! – and left his ride-on mower to get lunch. While he was away, the mower burst into flame. The resulting grass fire covered about one hectare of mostly mowed grass, with a single difficult gully of dense love grass needing some urgent attention.

Seven *Charlie* (Graham) was first on scene, followed by Barry and Kieran in *One*, and Jeremy and Nick in *Seven Alpha*.



*Jeremy and Barry on un-bogging duty*

The fire was quickly contained, but crews spent a frustrating hour un-bogging *Charlie*, which was eventually dragged from the black mud by the winch on Kieran's ute.



#### *Costa Lunga southern edge*

The long-planned and oft-delayed hazard reduction burn on the property Costa Lunga, on the Monaro Highway south of Bredbo, took place on the evening of *Wednesday 26 March*.

Four Colinton and two Bredbo trucks took part. Colinton crews included Michael B, Michael E, Bob M, Carolyn, Sandra, Jeremy, Shaun, Karl, Tony R, Andrew, Barry, Nick, and on a quad-bike, in command of operations, Captain Graham.

At about 1800 (six o'clock) the first flames were lit, in the south-east corner of the hundred hectare paddock stretching down to the river.

Dense love grass burned hotly, creating quite heavy smoke, though as the

evening progressed the wind, which had been strong from the north-west, dropped away and the smoke rose in a spectacular plume.

The burn concluded with tea and coffee provided by the land-holder, and crews were home before midnight. 

#### **ACT Spring Forecast:**

*(adapted from Christopher Knaus, Canberra Times, 23 October)*

Heavy spring rain has boosted fuel loads ahead of the fire season, increasing the risk of fast-moving grass fires.

But the ACT's grass fire risk is likely to remain low until a sustained dry spell, a change not expected until later this year.

The ACT Rural Fire Service held its open day on *Sunday 23 October* as preparations for the looming fire season continue.

The event provided a chance for Chief Officer Joe Murphy to urge Canberrans to start readying their properties for summer.

"This is the ideal time to clean up your yard, to clean your gutters," he said. "Get rid of all the clutter, get rid of all the dead branches. Give it a spring clean."

Mr Murphy says this year's heavy rainfall has impacted on fuel loads.

"We're going to see a real increase in grass growth, so grass will be our primary concern this season," he said. "If we do end up with warm, drying winds, then grass fires will be a real risk."

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting the wet weather to continue until the end of November.

"All of us who sit in this sort of space, we're looking out to January or February at this time, we do believe it will start to dry out," he said. He said rainfall also

posed dangers for RFS vehicles operating in bushland around the ACT.

RFS trucks can become bogged in muddy ground, he said, which put personnel and equipment at risk.

The RFS open day drew a strong crowd to the Emergency Services Agency's Hume site on Sunday.

The event featured firefighting and helicopter demonstrations, and provided bushfire safety advice to the community. 

### 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.*** 



*Bredbo Captain Sparky at Costa Lunga*



*Jeremy, Vern, Lance: RFS Monaro*

### RFS Monaro Branch:

The Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) represents volunteers and staff of the RFS.

The RFSA website states: *We support our volunteers in many ways including our annual Grants Program open to all NSW RFS brigades and units around the State, the sponsorship of training exercises and NSW RFS events, education scholarships, Volunteers' Family Days, Chaplaincy, Counselling and Family Support and an Honours and Awards program.*

On Saturday 5 November, at a meeting in Cooma of RFSA representative from RFSA Head Office and several local brigades, a Monaro Branch of the RFSA was formally established.

Elected President was Cooma's Vern Dunning, and Secretary Jeremy Mears of Colinton. 



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.



## Snake removal:

Members are reporting many recent snake sightings, including at least one case of snakebite (Dog *Tilley*, who has survived thanks to prompt medical attention).

The Brigade has a qualified snake-handler, who will remove snakes which are a threat – that is, if the snake is inside a house or outbuilding. Authorities warn that unqualified people should not attempt to kill or capture snakes.

Every First Aid kit should contain a standard 3-metre roll of *medium/high compression bandage*. This is applied to the bitten limb, starting with the bite site, then to the inner joint. This type of bandage is more effective than an older-style crepe bandage. If at all possible, the patient must be kept still while an ambulance is called, as movement aids the spread of the venom.

**For snake removal:**

**Michael Burton 0407 003 392**



*Colinton Captain Graham at Costa Lunga*



**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**

