

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 181 \* December 2016



*Bush Firefighter Assessment Day – love grass in Bredbo  
(pic by Keith Howker)*

## **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:**

Mid-morning on *Tuesday 22 November*, there was a call-out for a grass fire on the Jerangle Road. Colinton crews were alerted by pager and SMS, but within a half-hour of the alert, Bredbo crews had the fire under control.

Later the same day, there was a second pager call, and Bredbo crews returned to Jerangle Road, while Colinton members (Graham, Daniel, Barry, Michael B, Carolyn, Kim, Helen, Nick) were held on stand-by at the station with *Alpha* and *Bravo* at the ready. Once again, the order came: *stand down*. Crews were home by late afternoon. 

## **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.*** 

## **Training (2):**

A good turn-out of Brigade members took part in a simple but effective training exerciser on *Saturday 10 December*.

Four fully-crewed trucks left the Station for Lawler Road, which runs along the ridge above the Murrumbidgee south of the Michelago boundary.

Two houses were selected for a 'property protection' exercise, and crews laid out hoses, started pumps, reported on wind and weather, and discussed the probable

path of a fire, carried by the usual NW wind up from the river valley.

There was a variety of opinions, but generally a confident response as crews felt they could deal with the situation.

Following the exercise, the four trucks drove to the summit of Fireman's Hill for a panoramic view of the district: a beautiful situation, but importantly giving crew members a better idea of water points, buildings, and access routes. ↪



*Mardi, high above the Murrumbidgee*

**ACT and region: a tinderbox:**  
(adapted from *Fairfax Media*)

High fuel loads, hot weather and never-ending bushfire seasons are making the increasing number of people living on Canberra's urban edge "extremely vulnerable", a Climate Council report has warned.

More than 9000 Canberra homes are less than 700 metres from bushland, a new report by the Climate Council into

bushfires has said. And while the bushfire risk for the ACT has been rated as normal, higher fuel loads caused by a wet September and a dry October has firefighters on alert.

The Climate Council described the ACT as a "tinderbox" and said "hot and dry conditions are driving up the likelihood of dangerous fire weather in NSW and the ACT".

"The upcoming 2016/17 bushfire season in NSW and the ACT is set to be a potentially damaging one," the report said.

"September was the wettest and second wettest on record for NSW and the ACT, respectively. These wet conditions led to substantial grass growth.

"October rainfall was 15 per cent and 30 per cent less than average for NSW and Canberra, respectively.

"Dry conditions are set to continue into summer, with BoM predicting above average dry conditions and above average temperatures for the December–February period for the ACT and virtually all of NSW."

The bushfire season has stretched into October and March "posing serious resource issues", the report said.

"Since the mid-1990s, southeast Australia has experienced a 15 per cent decline in late autumn and early winter rainfall and a 25 per cent decline in average rainfall in April and May," it read.

Longer fire seasons are reducing opportunities for controlled burning and intensifying pressure on firefighting resources. ↪

↪  
Snake Removal  
**Michael Burton**  
0407 003 392  
↪



*Captain Graham and the Fire Danger Rating roadside display*

**Fire Danger Ratings:**  
(adapted from RFS website)

Bush Fire Danger Ratings are based on predicted conditions such as temperature, humidity, wind, dryness and drought factors. **The RFS recommends:**

**CATASTROPHIC:** For your survival, leaving early is the only option. Leave bushfire prone areas the night before, or early in the day – don't just wait and see what happens.

Make a decision about when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return.

Homes are not designed to withstand catastrophic conditions so you should leave early.

**EXTREME:** Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.

If you are not prepared to the highest level, leave early in the day.

Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level, your home is specially designed, constructed or modified and situated to withstand a fire; and you are well prepared and can actively defend it if a fire starts.

**SEVERE:** Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.

Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – but only stay if you are physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.

If you are not prepared, leave early in the day.

**VERY HIGH, HIGH, MODERATE:**  
Review your bushfire survival plan with your family.

Be ready to act if necessary.



*Property protection: Michael inspects the excellent Storz fittings on a tank outlet – all tanks should be so fitted*



*New Brigade equipment – a ride-on mower supplied by the Cooma Stihl Shop*

**US News:**

NOAA (the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in its Report for November 2016 records 8560 fires for the month, the second highest total since 2000. The fires November burned 275,616 acres. For the period January – November there were 60,236 fires, with 5,283,367 acres burned.

NOAA also reports that globally the year 2015 was the warmest year on record. ❧



**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**



We wish all our members and friends  
a happy, prosperous and  
**safe**  
Festive Season.



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