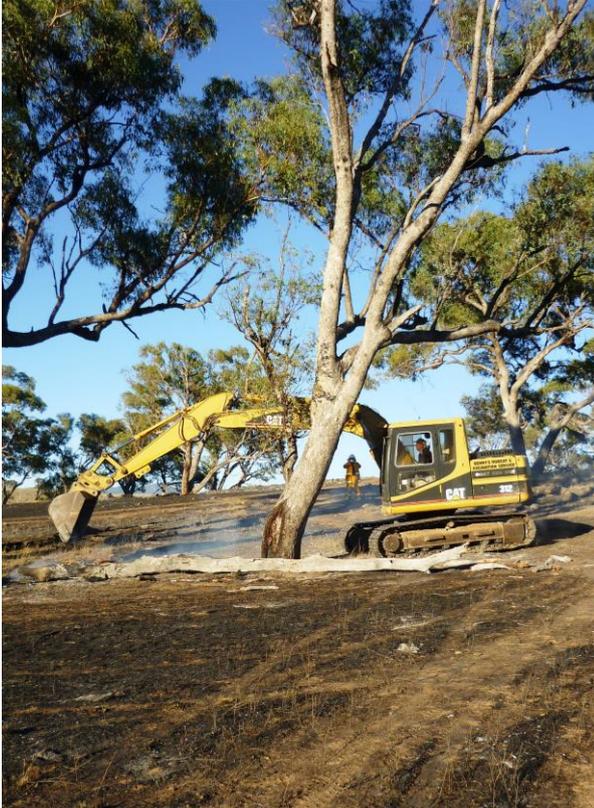


Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 183* March 2017



Sparky in action at Riverview Lane

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:

Around lunch time on *Friday 17 February* a massive smoke plume appeared in the sky east of Canberra. Within a very short time it was clear that a major fire was burning, in hilly country between Queanbeyan and Captains Flat. It was named the *Carwoola Fire*.

A Monaro Strike Team was despatched with trucks from Anembo, Jerangle, Smiths Road, Michelago, and Colinton's Seven *Charlie* (Graham, Kim, Laurence). Strike team leader was Michelago Captain Brent.

Captain Graham reported that *Charlie* was mainly busy along Widgewa Road and Whiskers Creek Road; that the crew were unable to save several houses; and that there had been major destruction of farm out-buildings and vehicles as well as stock losses.

Later news reports confirmed that a dozen houses had been lost, with the same number damaged, and that the fire covered 3446 hectares.

On *Monday 20 February*, crews were called to a grassfire between Baroona Road and Riverview Lane. Apparently started by a person using an angle-grinder on Riverview Lane, the fire made a rapid run around midday towards the homestead, before a change of wind took it towards the stockyards at the road junction.

All Colinton trucks responded: *One* (Helen, Kim), *Alpha* (Michael B, Jeremy, Tony R); *Bravo* (Graham, Laurence, Peppe, Callum); and *Charlie* (Barry,

Jacqui, Daniel, Tony C). In their own vehicles were Kieran and – a late arrival from Canberra – Nick.

Michelago Seven *Alpha*, *Bravo* and *One* also attended, as well as Bredbo Nine *Alpha* and *Bravo* and Bredbo's formidable *Six*.

The grass fire was quite quickly contained, and was prevented from crossing Baroona Road, which formed the primary containment line. However a number of trees and fallen logs were still blazing, and at the end of the afternoon received the skilled attention of Sparky in an excavator, pushing down and splitting major burning logs.

Some fifteen hectares were burned, and crews were home by 1930 (7.30 pm). The next morning, Jeremy and Nick in *Alpha* patrolled the fireground, finding one very small hot spot, (and a singed angle-grinder at the point of origin.)

On *Tuesday 28 February*, there was a late afternoon call-out for a grass fire to the west of the Highway, just north of Michelago village. Colinton member Michael B, returning southwards from work saw a very small fire in grass at Lenanes Creek, which he promptly reported to Triple Zero. He then returned home and alerted the Brigade, while Michelago crews were being called by Captain Brent.

By the time Colinton Seven *Alpha* (Michael B, Nick, Sandra) was on scene, the fire had rapidly spread to cover some 30 hectares. *Alpha* was joined by *Charlie* (Barry, Tony R, Gill), *Bravo* (Graham, Kieran) and *One* (Kim, Daniel, Jeremy, Peppe).

The fire was being run by Michelago Captain Brent, with a full complement of Michelago trucks and crews. Trucks from Anembo, Bredbo and Smiths Road were also present – one Smiths Road truck

proceeded south along the road to the west of the Murrumbidgee – just in case.

The fire made a fast run up the ridge to the west of the Highway and several houses at the north end of Willows Road were threatened before the blaze was brought under control.



Michael enjoying the foam cannon

All crews were made welcome to a 'good-job-well-done' BBQ at the Michelago Brigade fire shed.

Crews from Michelago continued to patrol on *Wednesday and Thursday 1,2 March*.

Late afternoon on *Monday 6 March*, crews from Bredbo and Shannons Flat were sent to a grass fire along the Billilingara Road, and soon requested assistance. Three Colinton Sevens were despatched, but *Alpha* (Sandra, Jeremy, Nick) was stood down and returned to Baroona Road, while *Charlie* (Michael B, Sandra, Jeremy) and *Bravo* (Graham, Barry) proceeded to the fire.

Michael B reports:

The fire was on the top of the gap on the side of Billilingra Road. Approximately two hectares in size, the fire was slow burning in open grass land. Luckily, weather conditions were favorable as the fire could have progressed into heavily timbered country on the side of a hill. Quick acting Bredbo crews were able to contain the fire in the open grass land. ✍



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
& 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.michelagoreregion.org.au
Views expressed in The Colinton Courier are not necessarily those of the editor, the Brigade, or the RFS.



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. ✍



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



Drones for Xmas (Part 2):

One of our readers was kind enough to point out some small errors in our story last month about drones.

It seems that there are many and varied views concerning drone safety, not to mention drone legality.

We recommend that anyone planning to operate a drone – whether commercial or recreational – take the time to read the regulations, on the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) website.

<https://www.casa.gov.au/aircraft/landing-page/flying-drones-australia>

For firefighters, the important message, which is emphasised by CASA:

“If you fly, they can’t!”

This means: NEVER fly a drone anywhere near a bushfire or other emergency situation. ✍



The Colinton *Courier* is made possible by the support of a number of sponsors to whom we are very grateful. They include

**Kwik Kopy of Phillip
M&T Motors of Cooma.**

For this issue we particularly thank the Rural Fire Service Association

RFSA

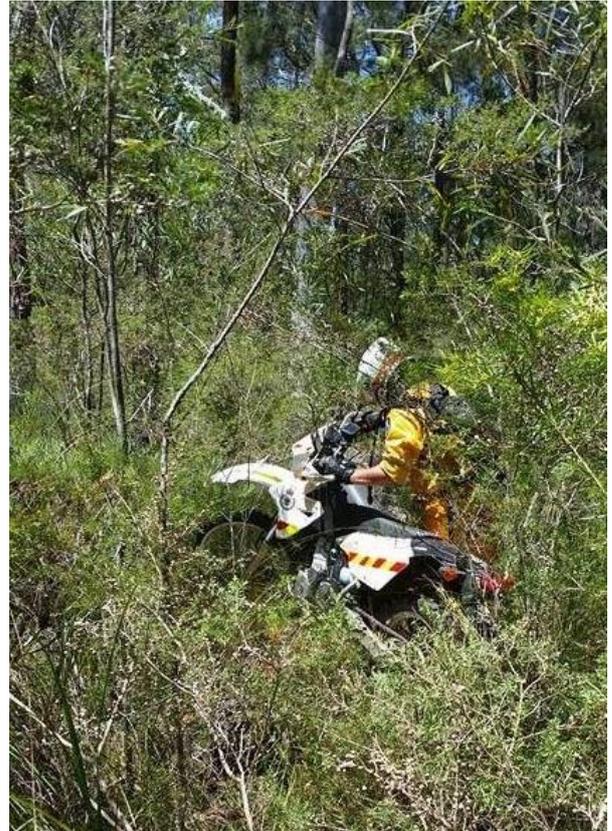
for a grant, which enabled the Editor to take delivery of a new laptop computer for the production of the *Courier*.

Thanks are also due to

hi-micro

of Fyshwick, who supplied the computer, and gave invaluable assistance in setting up the new machine and all its systems and software.

We recommend that our friends and members give their support to our sponsors.



RFS bike on the trail

Trail bikes in the hills:

(information from Scott Southwell, District Assistant, Monaro Team, RFS Cooma.)

At the end of 2015, the RFS Remote Area Firefighting and Special Operations section introduced a trial program involving trail bikes. Initially there were four bikes and two trailers. Riders were from the Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT), and needed a dirt bike riding background. Once they have gone through specialist training they become operational.

Currently there are three trailers and six bikes in operation – one of the trailers is based in Cooma.

The bikes are used for a variety of quick response situations such as lightning strikes, as well as inspection of fire trails and assessing bushfire containment lines in remote areas, as well as being a visual deterrent to bushland arson. 



All members of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade are invited to a BBQ and the Brigade's

Annual General Meeting
and
Election of Office Bearers

on

Saturday 13 May.
BBQ from one o'clock
AGM from two o'clock

