

# Colinton Courier

*Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 86\* January 2009*



*Axeman Dave on the fire trail*

## **Committee 2008-2009:**

**Fire Captain:** Graham Povey

**Senior Deputy:** Nick Goldie

**Deputies:** Bob Morison, Jeremy Mears

**President:** Martin Hughes

**Secretary:** Nick Goldie

**Treasurer:** Bob Morison

**Training Officer:** Jeremy Mears


**Equipment Officers:** Graham Povey, Nick Goldie

**Community Awareness:** Nick Goldie

**Permits:** Graham Povey


**NSW RFSA Delegate:** Jeremy Mears

## **Call-out:**

*Monday 12 January, Seven Alpha (Nick) responded to a reported smoke sighting north of Baroona Road.* 

## **Training:**


The Colinton Brigade conducts training every month on the second Saturday, at two o'clock, at the Station at Colinton. Everyone is welcome.

The Junior brigade is in action, every second Thursday night. Contact Bob Morison or Tony Campbell for details. 


## **Training (2):**

We have received advance warning of some training courses for 2009, from Cooma-Monaro Learning and Development Officer Mick Holton. These courses are generally over several days or evenings. Details from Colinton Training Officer Jeremy (6100 1100), or from the MyRFS website.

Scheduled for the early part of the year:

- *Basic Firefighter (BF)*: February
  - *Chainsaw*, several levels: March
  - *Rural Fire Driving*: April
  - *Advanced and Village Firefighter*, (AF, VF): May
- 

## **Volunteer Leaders Program:**

Applications for the *Volunteer Leaders Program 2009* close on 20 February and 6 March, for two chances to take part in this program, which is a five day residential course run at the Australian Institute of Police Management in Manly. Application forms and other details are on the MyRFS website. Applications have to be approved by the RFS Team Manager in Cooma. 

## Fire Trails:

On *Wednesday 7 January* Bredbo *Nine* (Sparky, Dave) and Colinton *Nine* (Graham, Nick) spent the day inspecting the fire trails in hilly country west of the Murrumbidgee.

Starting at Bredbo, the party crossed by the ford and stopped for a panoramic view back to the new housing development on the river to the north of the village, then headed along the Bumbalong Fire Trail for a cuppa at Goat Shooters Hut. Upwards and westwards on to the Mount Clear Fire Trail, the Clear Range Fire Trail and the network of lesser tracks such as Goggin's Track, which do not appear on even detailed maps (Graham and Sparky have a bottomless well of local knowledge). Most of the fire trails were in good condition, with some storm damage to the Middle Range section of the Mount Clear trail; but there were many trees across the smaller trails. Axe- and chainsaw-expert Dave had an energetic day.



*Chainsaw Dave*

By late afternoon, the group had cleared many fallen trees, had dipped in and out of

Namadgi National Park (ACT) through some seriously locked gates, visited Horse Gully Hut, and completed the circle by coming down through Bumbalong. ↪

## Brigade membership:

Membership: please pay by cash at training, or cheque to The Treasurer, Colinton Rural Fire Brigade, 88 Weemala Lane, Michelago NSW 2620.

Membership fees: \$10.00 for residents, \$50.00 for non-residents. Donations are always welcome. If paying by mail, please provide a return address so a receipt can be mailed to you. ↪



*John, Barry and Jacqui at Baroona Dam*

## Mythbusting:

The Bushfire CRC is a constant source of interest, as it attempts to apply evidence-based science in sometimes controversial areas. For example, a paper by P J Zylstra of the University of NSW takes a hard look at the common assertion that 'the aborigines constantly burned the bush.'



Perhaps they didn't. In the Alpine areas which were studied, European managers were eight times more likely to set fire to the bush than the Aboriginal communities.

Zylstra's conclusion: "The evidence does not support the assertion that Aboriginal people burnt the Alps frequently or indiscriminately; oral traditions describe a highly specific management that focused fire in those communities that would benefit from it. The frequency of fire in the Tooma River catchment and the Brindabella Ranges was significantly less than it became during the grazing period, and charcoal evidence suggests that this was the case across the Alps."

[http://www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/B\\_Zylstra1.pdf](http://www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/B_Zylstra1.pdf)

'Region South', the most significant being in the Morton National Park at Bundanoon. This forest fire has burned more than 800 hectares, had involved 130 firefighters, and 14 aircraft including 12 helicopters.



*Graham at Goat Shooters Hut*

Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at  
[horehound@yless4u.com.au](mailto:horehound@yless4u.com.au)  
02 6235 9190

by the first Saturday each month, or to any  
Committee member. For production assistance we  
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**The Colinton Courier** is also available at

[www.michelagoregion.org.au/bushfire/brigades.htm](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/bushfire/brigades.htm)

Views expressed in **The Colinton Courier** are not  
necessarily those of the editor, the Brigade, or the  
RFS.

## Keep up to date on MyRFS:

The MyRFS website is available to all brigade members, but it necessary to register. The website includes news of current incidents, maps, weather, and details of brigade and individual activities.

At time of writing, there were some thirty-five incidents in NSW, three of them in

**Triple Zero:**  
from the RFS web page

Call *Triple Zero* (000) in an Emergency.

Calls to *Triple Zero* are free and can be made from mobile phones, home or work phones or payphones.

Stay calm and call *Triple Zero* from a safe location.

The Telstra operator will ask you if you need Police, Fire or Ambulance. Say "fire". If you are calling from a mobile or satellite phone the operator will ask you for other location information.

You will be connected to an Emergency Services Operator. Give them details of where you are including: street number,

street name, nearest cross street, locality.  
In rural areas it is important to give the full address and distances from landmarks and roads, not just the name of the property.

On a highway or a rural road, know the direction you are travelling and last town you passed through to assist services to correctly locate the incident. Do not hang up until the Operator has all the information they need.

If a person is unable to speak English they should say the one word “fire” and leave the phone off the hook. The call will be recorded and traced and a fire engine will be sent to that address.

Take time to teach children and overseas visitors how to make a *Triple Zero* emergency call.



*on the beach - getting some pressure  
(pic by Noreen Clark)*



*on the beach – draughting at Baroona Dam  
(pic by Noreen Clark)*



### ***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 4131***

***0419 406 908***

