

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 89\* April 2009



*Graham gets a chopper ride*

## **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

## **\*ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING\***

**All Brigade members are urged to attend the AGM and Election of Office Bearers 2009-2010, at the Colinton Fire Station at 1900 on Wednesday 27 May.**

## **Call out:**

A series of electrical storms passed through the district in late March. On *Sunday 22 March* a lightning strike east of Peak View started a small blaze which persisted, and grew to a perimeter of more than five kilometers of rough timber country. It eventually involved more than a week of round-the-clock attention from brigades including Numeralla, Jerangle, Michelago, Colinton, Berridale, Smiths Road, Peak View and Anembo, as well as helicopters and dozers. Colinton *Seven Bravo* (Graham, Tony R, Jeremy) attended the fire on *Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March*, with *Seven Alpha* (Bob, Martin Nick) taking the night shift. Tony R gave us his account.

## **A first Peak at a fire.**

"I got the call from Graham on Tuesday and at 0730 the next day we set off from Colinton for the fire ground. As this was my first call-out I was keen to test out my training. After negotiating the narrow gravel country roads at a reasonable clip and swooping through a couple of spine-snapping fords "Dakar" Povey brought us safely to the assembly area, a grassy paddock to the north of the fire front where men in yellow had accumulated to swap yarns and lean over maps. Vehicles were scattered around including floats for the bulldozers and a sizeable water tanker.

To the south in the bush one could see smoke shifting around and occasionally puffing up from the fire front but in a way that was not at all alarming. There were no flames to be seen and all in all there was a picnic atmosphere. Graham eventually received instructions from incident controller Barry and we moved off to follow Curly's bulldozer, working down the eastern side of the fire to meet up with another dozer driven by Lex. Curly's course was along an existing fire trail until he was to meet up with a fence line which was apparently not to be cut, which complicated matters as Lex was

coming up on the other side of the fence. This was resolved somehow by people much more experienced than me and eventually the dozers created a four metre perimeter around the fire. For the rest of the day with *Numeralla Seven* and *Jerangle Seven* we patrolled the eastern side watching smoke and the occasional flame as the fire edged its way slowly forward and then backward depending on the weft and warp of the wind. A helicopter choppered its way around from about midday and at one stage landed to take Graham on a scenic tour.

“We lunched comfortably with the Jerangle crew and later were on hand to pull them out of a boggy bit. During the afternoon we used the rake hoes to clear around stringy-bark trees at the fire side of the track. I commented to Jeremy that a Boule set would have been handy as the terrain was suitable. He said that there was a set but it was in *Seven Alpha* - of course.

“At around 1630 we were relieved by crews from Colinton, Michelago and Anembo. On the way out Graham asked us to put out a few embers on the side of the track and this allowed me my photo opportunity. In summary a gentle but very instructive introduction to a fire ground and to the various levers and tubes at the business end of *Seven Bravo*.

Thanks Graham and Jeremy for the good company and the valuable experience ... and for keeping my yellows clean.”

### **Fire Season Reminder:**

The Bush Fire Danger Period in the Cooma-Monaro region has been extended until **Thursday 30 April**.

No fires may be lit in the open without a permit. Permits may be issued by your local brigade captain, but it is unlikely that any permits will be issued unless there is substantial rain.

Note that on days of Total Fire Ban, NO fires may be lit, even if a permit has been issued.



*Tony keeps his yellows clean*

### **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):**

A Crew Leader (CLV) course is planned for Cooma on 18, 19 April, an Advanced Firefighter course for Cooma on 14, 16 and 17 May, and a Village Firefighter course for Berridale over six evenings in May.

Details from Jeremy (6100 1100).



Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at  
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 02 6235 9190

by the first Saturday each month, or to any  
 Committee member. For production assistance we  
 are grateful to:

\*The Sharp Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd,  
 Fyshwick,

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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.



## Burning topics:

The *Canberra Times* (Monday 6 April) had a dramatic cover and two-page spread on the work of NSW National Parks ecologist Andrew Claridge, with several studies done over many years by CSIRO. Fire, say the researchers, shapes animal habitats. “But,” writes the *Times*’ science writer Rosslyn Beeby “... there are still big information gaps. Studies of how fire and Australia’s ecosystems interact – and possibly depend on each other – are rare, and pitifully under-funded, despite predictions of a dramatically increased bushfire risk as a result of climate change trends.”

But wait ... the same Rosslyn Beeby reports on the front page on the same day: **CSIRO DUMPS BUSHFIRE SOFTWARE** “An Australian world-first software system that reduces bushfire risk ... was axed by CSIRO to cut costs ... the national science organisation has also dumped one of Australia’s longest-running fire ecology studies conducted over 30 years near Eden in south-east NSW.” Oh. 

## Training (3):

A Senior First Aid course was held at Colinton on Saturday and Sunday 28-29 March, with members from Cooma, Numeralla and Colinton (Michelle, Bob, Noreen, Nick) attending. At the end of the course, all participants were assessed and passed. The course was introduced by Learning Officer Mick Holton, and conducted by Vern Dunning of the Cooma Brigade and SES.

Many more members of brigades in the north of the Cooma-Monaro area had expressed an interest in this course, but were unable to attend because of prior commitments. The course is not intended to create full-scale paramedics, but it gives a very solid grounding in basic first aid, and as an RFS certificated course it is recognised outside the service. 



*Jacko (Numeralla) giving Bob’s head some serious attention ...*

## Mayfair 2009:

The Michelago Mayfair will be held on Mothers Day **Sunday 10th May** from 10am to 3pm on the Michelago Village Oval. There will be activities for children, junior fire brigade demonstrations, games, food, drink and a variety of stalls. There will be ice creams, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Come and join the community in celebrating Mothers Day, meet and greet, and see what the region has to offer. If you are interested in running a stall or activity, please contact Trish Grice at [tagrice@activ8.net.au](mailto:tagrice@activ8.net.au) or 0402 487 706 ☞

## Helping Hands:

Sally Hughes has compiled a contact list of local people willing to help with sandwiches, drinks, child-minding etc when active brigade members are at an incident.

Please let Sally know if you would like to be added to the list, or if you have other skills which could be useful to the community in times of need (eg medical, driving) – contact Sally on 6235 9093 or [mshughes@activ8.net.au](mailto:mshughes@activ8.net.au). ☞

## Congratulations:

to long-standing Smiths Road member Mike Lonergan who has been elected Group Captain, joining Will Goggin (Bredbo), Ray Barron (Peak View) and Ross Sherlock (Cooma). ☞

## 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. Please provide a return address so a receipt can be mailed to you. ☞



*Noreen gives CPR to a very young patient*



### **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**

