

Colinton Courier

*Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 93* August 2009*




Tony at the Bredbo burn

Committee 2009-2010:

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: Jeremy Mears
Community Awareness: Nick Goldie
Permits: Graham Povey
NSW RFSA Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Call out:

In the evening of *Monday 13 July*, an MVA was reported from the foot of Ingelara hill. *Seven Alpha* (Nick, Jeremy) and *Seven Charlie* (Graham) responded. A southbound vehicle had struck a kangaroo and come to a halt, when a Good Samaritan heading north pulled over to assist ... and gently rolled his 4WD off the embankment into the culvert. No injuries were suffered, no fuel was leaked, but two vehicles needed tow-trucks.


On Wednesday 15 July, Colinton *Seven Alpha* (Tony, Gill, Nick) and *One* (Graham, Jeremy, Martin) joined crews from Bredbo for an evening love-grass burn to the north of the highway, close to Bredbo village. Crews were home by 2100. 



Gill at the Bredbo burn

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. 



Jacqui extinguishing a fuse-box fire (VF training)

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: \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for juniors. Donations are always welcome. Please provide a return address so a receipt can be mailed to you. 


Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at
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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,
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The Colinton Courier is also available at

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.



Dire prediction for the neighbours:


(adapted from The Age, and ABC News 29 July)

Victorians have been warned that bushfire conditions this summer are expected to be even worse than those which sparked the Black Saturday bushfires.

A leaked report from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) says a season with the "greatest potential loss to life and property is now in sight".

Central to the warnings are Victoria's continuing drought and a forecast El Nino weather pattern, which is expected to bring even drier conditions to south-eastern Australia. Victoria is entering its 13th year of poor rainfall.

The Country Fire Authority has started a countdown campaign warning Victorians the fire season is only 90 days away.

Victorian authorities say it is too early to say whether the controversial 'stay or go' policy is even an option this year. 

And in the Northern Hemisphere:

Ten thousand people are reported to have been evacuated from their homes in British Columbia, western Canada, as fires ringed Kelowna and Lillooet, and threatened the up-market ski-resort Whistler. Hundreds of fires are being left to burn as crews concentrate on property protection. In a very familiar scenario, BC forests are dangerously dry after weeks of hot dry weather. The BC state government is threatening to close all 'back country' to visitors.

Meanwhile there are more hundreds of fires in Alaska, thousands of people have been evacuated in the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean off Spain, and 75,000ha of forest has been burned in Spain, with the loss of eleven firefighters. In Greece, fires in the Peloponnese have followed high temperatures, drought and strong winds. European Union fire management authorities report that 200,000ha have been burnt so far this year in Europe, compared to 180,000ha for last year. ☞



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***



Training: Jeremy ascending


Training (2)

A good turn-out of many new members in August did a thought-stimulating exercise involving three trucks and a *buoy wall* (aka a 'collar dam', a portable fabric pool, valuable as a reservoir in waterless locations. This can be deposited on any flattish area, filled by a bulk tanker, and used to refill fire-fighting trucks.) In the training exercise, the three trucks pumped water from the first truck to the buoy wall,



Sue: "this one?"

to the second truck from the buoy wall and on to the third truck. This calls for careful consideration of intakes and outlets, and for pump operators to keep a constant eye on water pressure coming and going, so that the cycle is maintained.


The day also included some practical 'ladder safety' work, as recent high winds had produced a tangle of hoses on the drying gantry. 

Open Day:

The state-wide **RFS Open Day** will be held on Saturday 26 September. The Colinton Brigade will be holding a combined event with the Bredbo Brigade, in Bredbo. All brigade members are invited to note the date and take part on the day. 

MRCA:

Since 2005 the *Michelago and Region Community Association* has been the collective voice of the region. The MRCA makes representations to the Cooma Monaro Shire Council, the private sector, other community groups, the RTA and State and Federal politicians, and most importantly, enhances the strong sense of community in our region. Effective communication of local issues at a regional and State level has given our region a voice. This has been achieved through successful fundraising with the RFS, guest speakers at forums, education and information for residents, and the support of the Lions Club, Cooma Unlimited, Rotary, and local business including Tech Libris and the Michelago general store.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at the Michelago hall at 7.00 pm.
<http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/> 



emptying the buoy wall