

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 97 * December 2009



Daniel winds in the hose ...

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

We wish all our members and friends a
happy and *safe* festive season

Call out:

At six in the morning, *Sunday 6 December*, there was a pager call for a motor vehicle accident on Gungoandra hill. A semi-trailer had struck a kangaroo. The result was a broken fuel pipeline, and some 500 litres of diesel sprayed on to the highway. The MVA was attended by Colinton Seven *Charlie* (Graham) Seven *Alpha* (Bob, Jeremy) and *One* (Barry, Martin, Tony R, and Noreen). Several bags of absorbent material – it resembles kitty-litter – were used to contain the diesel, but there was no fire. Crews were home in time for mid-morning coffee. The kangaroo did not survive the encounter.

TOBAN:

A Total Fire Ban was declared for Friday 16 November, and again for Monday 27 November.

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.

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) – grass fire simulation:

Four trucks were deployed to a property on Weemala Lane (off Baroona Road), taking advantage of a very good turn-out on the brigade's normal December Saturday training day, Training officer Jeremy created a continually changing scenario of grass fire, a threatened home, sudden spotovers, and two trucks over-run by fire. A good learning time was had by all ...



Jacqui at the ready ...

Training (3) – Basic Firefighter:

Fifteen new firefighters took part in the Basic Firefighter course held at the Colinton fire station. The course was run by Cooma-Monaro *Learning and Development Officer* Mick Holton, assisted by long-time instructor Dave Keevers of Cooma, and Graham, Jeremy and Nick from Colinton.

The new recruits were from Anembo, Numeralla, Michelago, and Colinton (Daniel, Joel, Kirsti, Justin, Lynn, Michael, and – with a broken ankle – Helen). The course is intense, with subjects including fire science, pumps and pumping, bushfire behaviour, ropes and ladders, and some spectacular hands-on demonstrations organised by Mick, including a flaming gas bottle and a 'kitchen fire' producing an alarming fireball as the misguided cook poured water on the pan of flaming oil. (Don't try this at home ...)

Victoria (contd):

From the hearings of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (18 November):

Geoffrey Mortimer, lay witness, St Andrews gave evidence about:

- his experience in sheltering from the fire in a purpose-built mud brick pantry in his house in St Andrews. The house was destroyed but the witness and his family sheltered in safety.
- researching the design of his house (including installation of fire-fighting equipment, setting the house into the hill-side and use of timber frame with mud-brick infill).
- the design and construction of mud-brick pantry in centre of house. Discussed air flow, ventilation and visibility features. Discussed initial plans to build a stand-alone concrete bunker, but the cost would have been prohibitive.
- property preparations, activation of fire plan and receipt of warnings. Suggested that people need to be more pro-active in observing weather conditions for themselves, in addition to official warnings.
- sheltering in pantry during the passage of two fire fronts, and extinguishing spot fires

between them. Said that there was no sense of danger or panic amongst occupants, no smoke entered the bunker and the temperature did not exceed 36 degrees.

- ignition of house during second fire front following wind change. Noted that CFA brigade unable to attend house due to fallen trees on road.



Sandra at Weemala Lane

Snake Oil:

Redbacks in dunnies / and blowies in fridges / brown snakes on pathways / and bushfires on ridges / pieces of corned beef all done up with strings / these are a few of my favourite things ... (Michael Leunig)

We received the advertisement (below) from our Cooma Fire Control colleague Langdon Gould, wearing his farmers' hat, and were intrigued by his description of the small solar-powered device which makes snakes ... uncomfortable!

SENTINEL ELECTRONIC SNAKE REPELLER



AUSTRALIA

HOME TO SOME OF THE WORLDS MOST DEADLY SNAKES.

Each year more than 5000 snake bites occur in Australia. Do not become a victim - protect your home now.

Effective against all snake species,

100% Safe to use around Children and Animals
This unique repeller has been developed to scare away all kinds of snakes; it emits a pulsing vibration, which the snake picks up through sensors throughout its body. The snake perceives a danger zone causing them to evacuate the area; most snakes will retreat almost immediately.

For further details, please contact us on;
Ph (02) 6453 3448, Mobile 0407 411 654,
Or via email at badjalla@bigpond.com

Festive watch:

All the signs are for an interesting fire season ... please let us know (Graham, Jeremy, Nick) if you are going to be out of area during the holiday period. We need to know who is available, and we can keep an eye on empty property.





Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at
horehound@yless4u.com.au

02 6235 9190

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

*Noel Teys Real Estate 0428 625 307
and



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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.



Ray at Weemala Lane ...

Socks:

An unusual festive season gift: *Fire Rated Socks*.

Made by Wilderness Wear Australia, the socks are three layers (merino wool, nylon, and wool, and according to the label are "Ideal for Fire Fighting, Emergency Services, Welding, Electricity and Gas Authorities and applications where extreme heat, fire, sparks or molten metal are involved."

Just remember to wear your boots and helmet too.



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



Long-term relationship:

Thanks to Emilio Park, the manager of *Kwik Kopy* at 10 Townsend Street in Phillip, who has agreed to take over the printing of the *Colinton Courier*. We recommend *Kwik Kopy* for all your printing needs.

