

~ THE BRIGADE BULLETIN ~

No. 1, 15 June 2013

An occasional newsletter from the Michelago Rural Fire Brigade



Dear Members of the Michelago Brigade

Your Committee is aiming to keep you in touch, from time to time, with what the Brigade has been doing.

Sometimes, when there's a Section 44 emergency, people really notice us.

During the Yarrabin fire near Cooma last January, your Brigade raised its usually shy public profile. The Shed briefly became a place of 24-hour light and noise. Rostered crews rotated through fireground action, monitoring radio and maps in the Shed, and having home rest. C-M Fire Control complimented Michelago on its organisation.

The 2009 local Tea-Tree fire in the Tinderries was close to us, resources were stretched and there were some very tired people working long hours. Community support was amazing (sandwiches on tap, farmers lending equipment, non-active members returning) and, despite some property losses, the Brigade (with Colinton and Anembo Brigades) saved a number of houses.

And as for 2003 ... maybe you could share some memories of that horrendous time in another *Brigade Bulletin*. I know I'll never forget watching three brave fire trucks rounding up, like big red kelpies, the madly running grass-flames ignited by wind-blown sparks next to the creek at the back of my place.

At other times, we're not so visible. Here are just a few recent activities. Captain Brent Wallis wrote the incident report summaries.

7 April: Calabash Hazard Reduction Burn led by Colinton, with Michelago, Bredbo and Anembo Brigades. Two photos are below.



Photos: Brent Wallis

12 April: Michelago 1 responded to a call for a car that was set on fire and abandoned on the southern end of Kelly Road. James Byrne, Chris Byrne and Brent Wallis, with the assistance of Colinton 7A, put the fire out and stopped it spreading to nearby grass lands.



Photos: Brent Wallis

8 June: We sent all three trucks, with a total crew of eight, to help Colinton put out a fire at Ingalara. The total area burnt was 1 hectare.

As soon as we finished the Ingalara fire, the Bredbo captain requested our help with another fire at Bredbo. I sent Michelago 7A with Will Stone, Dave Gattringer, and myself. The total area burnt was 80 to 100 hectares. I sent the other two trucks and crews back home from Ingalara, so as not to leave Michelago without resources, just in case.

Both the Ingalara and Bredbo fires were started by the landholders without advising their Captains, looking at the wind conditions, or knowing how quickly and how hot lovegrass can burn. Our members were out fighting fires 12–7pm.

All in all, it was a good effort for the long weekend. Colinton, Bredbo and Michelago captains were all happy with everyone's efforts. *Brent Wallis*



Photo: Kylie Kenyon

Bredbo, 8 June: Derek Giucci, James Byrne, John Taylor, Bronwyn Gattringer – a good job, well done.



The New Shed Site? It's been only six years we've been working for this: if all good things come to those who wait, the new Shed should be a palace. With toilets.

Cooma-Monaro Fire Control's Langdon Gould discusses plans with Michelago Brigade's Property Officer Derek Giucci and Captain Brent Wallis.

Photo: Leanne Pattison

**AGM Reminder: Sunday 16 June 3.00, Hall
Join or renew, vote, discuss, meet and greet**

Leanne Pattison, Vice President