



The 'Get Ready Weekend' is a state-wide event involving over 600 Brigades and Colinton Brigade will be part of it again.

The Brigade will be available in a number of different locations to give all members of our community the opportunity to:

- Meet your local volunteer firefighters
- Learn about the local bush fire risk
- Obtain an understanding of what you need to do to get ready for the bush fire season
- Talk about a Bush Fire Survival Plan or get assistance with one you have prepared

On **Saturday 14 September**, members of the Colinton Brigade will be staffing fire trucks on **Baroona Road, Bumbalong Road and Mt Livingstone Road from 9.00 am – 11.30am.**

We will have information and Bush Fire Survival Plan packs on hand. So stop for a chat, meet some of your local volunteers, learn a bit more about how to 'Get Ready', and prepare your family and property ahead of a long, hot and dry bush fire season.

Activity will move to the **Colinton Fire Shed from 12.30pm**, starting with a **free BBQ lunch**. This is a family friendly event with activities for the kids, fire trucks open for inspection, information and specialist fire-fighting equipment displays.

This is the time for us all to start preparing for the threat of bush fire. Recent fires on the Mid North Coast and in the Hunter region have shown that bush fires can strike at any time and it is vitally important to be prepared for fires at any time of the year. Last season across NSW, there were more fires in July and August than for the whole of summer. You can start to 'Get Ready' by doing simple things like cleaning your gutters, removing combustibles from your yard, checking pumps and hose attachments and ensuring hoses can reach all corners of your property.

Completing or updating your Bush Fire Survival Plan, so you and your family know what you will do in the event of a bush fire, could save your lives. Check at myfireplan.com.au

Ask yourself, **when** you will go, **what** you will take and **where** will you go?

New Executive for the Brigade

Colinton Brigade held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 3 June. The new Executive team is:

President:	Tony Robinson
Secretary:	Michael Burton
Treasurer:	Carolyn Burton
Equipment Officer:	Shawn Richards
Committee member:	Bob Morison
Committee member:	Tanya Higgins

Field Officers are:

Captain:	Graham Povey
Senior Deputy:	Michael Burton
Deputy:	Tony Robinson
Deputy:	Kim Templeton
Deputy:	Bob Morison

A note from the President

As recently elected President of the Brigade, I aim to promote and enhance a culture that will allow all comers to enjoy the experience and satisfaction of volunteering in this essential service within our small community.

Gill and I have had our property on Mt Livingstone Road for nearly twenty years and joined the Brigade ten years ago. We have made many friends while gaining the skills and confidence to help protect our property and the properties of others.

Successfully protecting lives and property has given both Gill and I a strong sense of achievement and it has been a great way to get to know our wider community while learning how to deal with (and respect!) fire.

If you have been thinking of joining our fire brigade and would like to learn more about the variety of jobs and training available, give me a call on 0409 776 705.

Give it a go!

Tony Robinson

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Brigade activity

Despite desperately dry and warmer than average conditions over winter we have only had one callout in this area over the past three months. Hot works ignited a fire in lovegrass and despite the landowner having water on hand, the fire spread rapidly in calm conditions. Tankers from Colinton, Bredbo Michelago, Smiths Road and Cooma attended with helicopter support. This is a stark reminder of the dangers lovegrass poses throughout the year.

District Exercise

On Sunday 1 September, Brigades from the Snowy-Monaro area will be involved in a District Exercise ('Round Robin') centred on the Colinton Fire Shed. Between the hours of 9.00am and 1.00pm you may notice an unusual amount of fire truck activity in your area as teams practice navigation, pumping, hose drills and other firefighting skills in different locations.

Monthly Training

The Brigade conducts training on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 2.00pm at the Fire Shed. Come along, meet some of the team, and see if this might be for you.

REPORT ALL FIRES – RING 000

Neighbourhood Safer Places

Neighbourhood Safer Places are 'a **Place of Last Resort**' during a bush fire emergency.

Only use a Neighbourhood Safer Place when you can no longer put other options in your bush fire survival plan into action safely.

There are no designated Neighbourhood Safer Places in our immediate area, but you should note the following nearby designated locations in your Bush Fire Survival Plan:

South: Bredbo Community Hall
 Monaro High School Hall

North: Smiths Rd Fire Shed
 Burra Recreation Ground Hall

Work out your route to get to these locations and under what conditions you would or would not head to each of them.


Remember that a Neighbourhood Safer Place is a Place of Last Resort in bush fire emergencies only.

Travelling to or sheltering at a Neighbourhood Safer Place does not guarantee your safety.


There are very few reliably safe alternative routes out of this area.

Your safest option will always be to leave early.





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Remember:

- People with special needs, such as the elderly and people with a disability, should always leave before the threat of bush fire.
- Be aware that when you are travelling to your Neighbourhood Safer Place there may be heavy smoke and poor visibility, so familiarise yourself with the most likely route to your Neighbourhood Safer Places.
- Gather at the location and remain there until the bush fire threat has passed.
- The conditions at the Neighbourhood Safer Place may be uncomfortable and heat, smoke and embers may affect you.
- Water, toilets and food may not be available at the Neighbourhood Safer Place and emergency service personnel may not be present.
- Neighbourhood Safer Places are not intended for pets and livestock.

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Bush Fire Danger Period

In some parts of the state, including our neighbours to the east in the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Local Government Areas, the Bush Fire Danger Period commenced two months early on 1 August. With continuing dry conditions, we are likely to see an early start in this area, so keep up to date through the local Snowy Monaro Facebook page www.face-book.com/MonaroRFS

Once the Bush Fire Danger Period is declared, you will need a fire permit to conduct any burn.

Fire Permits help ensure we all use fire safely during the Bush Fire Danger Period. A permit imposes conditions on the way a fire is lit and maintained, and can only be issued by authorised Permit Issuing Officers.

The permit system ensures agencies like the NSW RFS know when and where landholders intend to burn, to ensure adequate and appropriate measures are in place, and to ensure fires remain under control.

Even though at the time of printing, the Bush Fire Danger Period has not been declared for this area, you must still advise the **Cooma Fire Control Centre** 02 6455 0455 and one of the **Colinton Permit Officers** and your neighbours, 24 hours ahead of your intention to conduct any burn:

Captain Graham Povey
02 6454 4150 or 0419 406 908
Email: colintoncaptain@icloud.com

Senior Deputy Michael Burton
0407 003 392
Email: fmurton64@gmail.com

Feedback

Send any feedback on this newsletter to Helen.Templeton@iinet.net.au



MYTH: *Filling the bathtub with water before a fire approaches is to sit in.*

FACT: The NSW RFS recommends that you fill your bath and sinks with water in case the water supply to your home fails. This is not such a problem for rural properties with our own water supplies, although the heat may damage exposed poly pipe. You can use this water to wet towels to seal under doors or put out small spot fires that might start in an around the home.

Stay informed

Look to different sources of information to stay informed on fire activity in our area.

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

www.face-book.com/MonaroRFS

<http://esa.act.gov.au/community-information/incidents-map/>

Fires Near Me app for smart phones – Android and Apple.

ABC

Local ABC radio and television

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