

Fire tower visit for CFA members



Women's Network members learn about fire tower operations from Michael Robertson

On 19 March, the District 7 Women's Network held its latest quarterly activity – a visit to the Mt Anakie fire tower.

This was a highly requested activity, and with limited access within the tower, places were capped to 20 participants.

The evening was structured to give participants an understanding of preparedness and readiness activities that take place behind the scenes during the fire season.

Fire tower operator Michael Robertson stepped participants through the day-to-day duties of the role. This includes scanning the landscape for smoke, understanding how weather, visibility and local knowledge all come together in early fire detection, and what happens when a fire is detected.

Commander Sam Miaolo then provided an overview of district readiness and what happens behind the scenes leading up to an elevated fire behaviour day. Participants learned about the District Readiness Matrix, how and when

resources are stood up, and the coordination required between groups and the district to ensure crews are prepared to respond.

The session helped connect local brigade activities to the bigger operational picture, with one attendee noting, “It was good to hear how it works at district level.”

The third session focused on fire behaviour, with Anakie Group Officer Brooke Killen speaking about the Anakie Group area, which participants had a fantastic view over from the top of the mountain. He described past fires in the region and covered the Australian Fire Danger Rating System Fire Behaviour Index, which is what determines readiness levels.

One participant reflected, “It was really interesting going through the history of the fires.”

The evening wrapped up with a relaxed networking supper, giving everyone the opportunity to connect, share experiences and continue conversations.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting how valuable it was to gain an insight into what happens behind the scenes during the Fire Danger Period.





