**BOLD - QFES**

**TRANSCRIPT**

Radio - Yeah, copy, go ahead.

Radio - How's it looking your end?

Radio - Yeah, it’s looking good, it's not burning too hot but it should be a clean burn.

Peter - To me, this mountain's a very special place, it's just got that feeling, for me, here. And it seems to attract interesting, genuine people to the mountain. I've been in the brigade 16 years, roughly so, yeah. One of the reasons why I do this with the brigade is I still feel that I can contribute. And it's really good to know that I'm still useful. That, you know, at this time of life.

Martin - Today, the brigade were conducting a hazard reduction burn, put a buffer zone between the houses and the natural rain forest. So if a fire does come, it'll hit that buffer zone and they can actually, it's actually to create a defendable space. This brigade is special for a few different reasons. They're probably our oldest group of volunteers being average of 75, 80 plus years old.

Ian - Oh, it gives me a sense of belonging in this community. Being a part of it. It's an opportunity to do something together. You meet the other, you meet up with your neighbours and your friends, and it's a gathering point.

John - I'm contributing to the community. I guess I've always been community minded, but I also know that if we do have an emergency, be that a fire or whatever, that we have a brigade. It gives me a good feeling. And then I guess it's also the fellowship, and doing a job, and knowing that we've done something to prevent maybe a future emergency.

Martin - I think it comes down to community resilience. We're trying to foster that within all our communities around Australia, now. It's something that we've lost over the years. On a bad day, you're not going to have a fire truck at every house. So if you've got resilience in the community, you can look after each other. And that's what we're trying to create up here.

Gill - The fact that we're on top of a mountain here, I think it's very important that we have a brigade because if the full-time fireys have to come up, then it's an hour roughly until they get here, by which time, whatever it is is burnt down.

Peter - It's a challenge in terms of the steep slopes. It's very uneven ground. There's a lot of wind changes around and it's also a big area we have to cover. So you've got to try and manage that from one end to the other, safely. 'Cause my number one priority is my crew and that's not just for me, that's common in the brigade. You know, we look out for each other. In the brigade and in the community.

Gill - It's a team effort, it is, yes, it is a team effort, especially with the old boys in the brigade, they need sustenance, you know? It's no good just giving them a ham sandwich to take off on the field. They've got to have something a bit more than that. And so I think we do, I think we do a good job. Well, except we didn't have enough sausage rolls today. And also we've got a group that helps out with the cleaning of the shed and cleaning of the trucks and things like that. So it's really a community thing.

Martin - Ah, they did a fantastic job. They undertook it in a methodical way, they did a lot of planning pre-burn. It was conducted almost to perfection. Nice, cool burn and I think some of the younger people in some of the brigades would struggle to actually achieve what they've done today.

Peter - I don't feel old. My body doesn't tell me I'm old, although my numerical age says I'm getting older. I think it's more a state of mind, for me. If you tell someone you're 80 or 75, you're expected to behave in a certain way. And a lot of people up here don't fit that mould.

Jenepher - Yeah, I think younger generations sometimes think "oh, because you're old, you can't do something" or they just, they just treat them differently. But yeah, it's how old you feel in yourself. And if they enjoy doing it, doesn't matter how old they'll get, they'll keep doing what they like. Think young and stay young.

John- It's an attitude thing. Certainly in the case of everyone of this brigade, I don't think anyone sort of really thinks about what age they are.

Ian - Well, I think the big one that sometimes you hear is that people believe when you get older, well, you'll just stop. I think it's vitally important to continue to do what you are able to do mentally and physically. Because you've got skills and experience that you bring to these that can't be acquired in any other way. Yeah, I think it's all part and parcel of seeing people, valuing people for what they are able to do within their limitations. And I guess that's where we try to operate.

Peter - The average age is about to plummet because we've got a junior member wanting to join, a 16-year-old, which will be interesting. No, he'll be fine, he's a great kid.

Martin - They're very proud in what they do and how they perform and how they present to the community. And yeah, I'm very proud to have them in my area to look after.

Gill - They love the mountain and they really, really want to keep it safe. And it's good, it makes you feel good to think that you're part of that. Nice and slow. Copy that.