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## #WAFAWEDNESDAY

#WAFAWEDNESDAY kicked off last year. It's a great way to promote both WAFANA and women in firefighting all over Australasia. To feature simply # your picture or article on social media with #WAFAWEDNESDAY and we'll feature one every month in the newsletter. Check out the link below for a great [#WAFAWEDNESDAY](#) from South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

## 2018 WAFANA Conference Wellington, New Zealand

Planning is well underway for our 2018 conference. The theme is set – Looking Forward, Looking Back - Shaping the new norm.

So mark your diaries and keep the 26-28 of September free!

Keep an eye out on the [website](#) and newsletters for more info.

## Trending on Facebook-

We regularly use our Facebook page to get out key information and messages be sure to get on line and give us a Like! Check out what's [Trending](#) this month.

## Board Member Profile

This months board member in profile is WAFANA President, [Senior Station Officer Donna Wheatley](#) from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne. As well as Board President Donna also won the award for Outstanding Female Firefighter at the 2016 WAFANA Conference.

## Professional Development

*The WAFANA board is keen to offer more to our members so we will be doing some online*

*Professional Development Sessions via our YouTube and Facebook pages.*

*If there is a topic you'd like to see covered please send us a message. Until then check out our YouTube page for some great videos from past conferences to get you keen for later this year - [Diversity as a capability](#)*

Want to connect with WAFANA check out our social media pages or our go to our [webpage](#) and send us a message.



Looking forward, Looking Back  
Shaping the new norm  
CONFERENCE 2018  
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND



# WAFA Presents: Interview Advice



Applying to become a firefighter or work at a fire service organisation can be a multi-stage process. One of those stages will include participating in an interview with your potential future employer. Although we can't give specifics on what might be asked, as this changes within and between recruitment cycles and between organisations, we can offer basic support around interviews.

If you are successful in being granted an interview, try following these points:

- Dress to impress - wear business attire and look professional
- Most government agencies these days require answers to come in the form of STAR (situation, task, action, response). Even if your organisation doesn't, it's a really good way to plan succinct answers that explain how you assessed the situation, acted, and resolved it.
- Remember your manners, shake hands, look people in the eye, smile, and call those you meet Ma'am and Sir. Many firefighting organisations are hierarchical, and they may well appreciate your recognising that in advance.
- Be prepared. Make sure you have thought through your life and employment experience (both paid and volunteer) to ensure you have a ready "war chest" of scenarios, stories and anecdotes that you can utilise to answer. If you really take the time to consider your experience, you'll be amazed at how much you have to share!
- If you're uncertain about a question, ask for clarity. If you're uncertain if you've answered the question fully, ask if they'd like you to elaborate further
- Try not to ramble. This may be a hard one, particularly under stress, but it's important to keep things succinct so your interviewers can follow more easily. They usually need to take notes on your responses, and if you can keep things targeted and to the point, they can more easily take notes
- If you're offered a glass of water, accept! Having a quick drink of water when asked a question can not only buy you time, but help to moisten your mouth when it might otherwise feel dry from nerves!
- Ensure you have read through the website/code of conduct/any other literature you can get with regards to the organisation you are applying to. Interviewers ALWAYS look more fondly upon a candidate who has done some research into the job they're applying for
- Have a career plan. Your goal shouldn't just be to be offered the job, but to progress through the ranks/promotional system, experience new challenges, try new things, and contribute to the organisation using that wealth of experience you've realised you have
- For permanent and volunteer firefighter recruitment, visit a fire station. It's very useful to have visited at least one fire station prior to your interview, not only so you have a lay of the land, but also so you can show your interview panel that you're serious about this, and excited
- Chat with others who work for your organisation of choice, and preferably have a similar role to you, be that administrative, career or volunteer firefighting.

**Lastly, and most importantly, breathe and believe in yourself! You can do this!**