

Sydneysiders swelter in race day heat - Ample Air Conditioning

Written by Administrator
Monday, 02 November 2009 20:00

Sweltering temperatures have added to Melbourne Cup day fever this lunch time in Sydney.

The mercury hit 36 degrees at Sydney Airport - 13 degrees above the average for early November.

The weather bureau is forecasting a high of 37 degrees right across the city before a cool change later on.

Elsewhere, the mercury has hit 35 degrees at Ulladulla on the south coast; but Byron Bay in the far north is basking in a cool 23 degrees.

The hot gusty winds made for an uncomfortable wait for those queueing at TAB outlets across Sydney.

But race fans were undeterred.

One punter, Trish Tinyow said she is backing the only female jockey in the race.

"Michelle Payne on Alleez Wonder," she said.

"She's definitely getting a backing. As well as the usual, [my] husband has required me to put a box trifecta on the regular favourites."

There is a total fire ban in place for six of New South Wales' 20 fire districts because of the hot weather.

The ban applies to all of the Central West plains, the Central Ranges, Greater Sydney, the Hunter and the Illawarra until midnight tonight.

The Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons says conditions are dangerous, and they are likely to worsen this afternoon.

"The principle reason for this is we're going to see some hot dry windy conditions across much of NSW," he said.

"[It will be] predominantly a west north westerly pattern, with some very strong wind influences - up to 80 kilometres an hour in some parts - ahead of a southerly change that is expected to move through later this afternoon and into this evening."

Temperatures in Sydney are expected to drop back down to the low 20s tomorrow.

- [ABC](#)

© ABC 2009