



Rural Women's Network 25 Fast Facts over 25 years

From meeting at crossroads with drought-stricken women in 1992, the NSW Rural Women's Network (RWN) continues to reflect and improve how we listen to rural women, link them to information and services and create opportunities that build personal and business resilience and strengthen rural communities.

The Rural Women's Network is a state-wide government program working in innovative ways to share information and promote action on rural women's issues, often in partnership with individuals, groups and non-government and government agencies.

p: 02 6391 3620
e: rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au
f: @NSWRWN t: @NSW_RWN
b: nswruralwomensnetwork.wordpress.com
yt: youtube.com/nswrwn



Connect and share

- 1 Produced** 64 editions of the flagship issues based newsletter *The Country Web*.
- 2 Delivering** regular information to over 700 subscribers through the Rural Email List (REL) since 2004 and connecting with 1000s through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube social media channels.
- 3 Supported** 25 annual community-hosted Rural Women's Gatherings (since 1993) building capacity of committees and resilience of over 7500 participants.
- 4 Produced** key resources:
 - **Domestic Violence: It Can Happen to Anyone* booklet (2014)
 - **Daring to Dream 1 & 2: Featuring stories from 50 inspirational rural women* (2006 & 2010)
 - **Living Out Back: People of Western NSW* coffee table book (1992)
 - **Let's Talk* video – on how to run family meetings (1995).
- 5 Publishing** social research to capture key challenges and ideas for action from over 500 women at Glen Innes (2015) and Broken Hill (2016) Rural Women's Gatherings.
- 6 Supported** over 700 women with free transport for International Women's Day drought event at Dubbo (2007).
- 7 Delivered** the InLaws farm succession series in partnership with ABC Rural Radio's Bush Telegraph with online resources (2004).

- 8 Delivered** multiple drought partnership projects in the 1990s: Building Stronger Communities (94), Info-action radio programs (94), Special Drought Country Web (94) Luncheon on the Plains (95), Challenge for Change (95), Memoirs Carers' Project (96), Business, Mentoring & Leadership for women (95–6) Older Women Out There (97).



- 9 Submitted** recommendations to United Nations Conference on Women (Beijing 1995) and co-convened a global networking workshop.

Recognition and voice



- 10 Recognised** over 800 rural women volunteers through the annual Hidden Treasure Honour Roll since 2010. Submitted Hidden Treasure nominees for Australian Honours Lists with 60% success.

- 11 Ran** a three-year Rural Women Connect project networking with rural women to develop ideas and solutions to challenges (2013–16).

- 12 Worked** with key women influencers through a State Advisory Committee (SAC) and later Rural Women's Council co-chaired with DPI Directors General (1992–2012).

- 13 Worked** with the SAC to develop a drought support worker program in 1994 providing support for farming families which evolved into the current Rural Resilience Program (RRP).

- 14 Member** of planning team for first International Women in Agriculture (WiA) Conference (1994) and National Rural Women's Forum (1995).

- 15 Supported** women to participate in WiA Conferences in USA, Spain and South Africa.

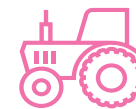
- 16 Pre-internet (1993–4), partnered** with three government agencies to consult with over 500 rural women using satellite technology to identify needs and link to decision makers resulting in targeted projects:

- *Long standing partnership with Country Care Link providing a confidential family support and information service for rural people along with transport assistance for rural people traveling to the city for medical appointments (ongoing since 1994)
- *Annual *Country Guide* Directory of NSW Government services provided to country people (1990s)
- *Coordinated Women in Agriculture feature exhibit at Australian National Field Days putting the spotlight on the contribution of rural women (1995).

Leadership



- 17 Mentored** 45 women through state RIRDC Rural Women's Award (RWA) (2000–17). With two winning the national award. Established the NSW–ACT RIRDC RWA Award Alumni (2016).



- 18 Boosted** the confidence, networking and goals-setting skills of over 1000 women through 70 Shaping Our Futures Together (SOFT) workshops including one virtual workshop to outback women using School of the Air.

- 19 Delivered** an online education initiative linking Year 10 agriculture students with women working in primary industries (2008).

- 20 Delivered** Effective Company Director training at Dubbo and Wagga Wagga (2003).

- 21 Awarded** Year of the Outback research scholarships to two women leaders (2002).

- 22 Increased** the number of Rural Lands Protection Board female directors by 14% through a targeted campaign (2002).

- 23 Recognised** prior learning of farming women through the Credit Where Credit's Due national qualification rolled out to regional areas (2002).

- 24 Hosted** A Women in Decision Making Forum building leadership skills in over 100 women at Orange (1997).

- 25 Delivered** Stepping Stones leadership program to Central West women (1995–6).