



**The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP**  
**Minister for Primary Industries**  
**Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Saturday 13 September 2014

**HIDDEN TREASURES RECOGNISED IN RURAL NSW**

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, said 153 women have today had their names added to an important list acknowledging their volunteer roles and valuable contribution to NSW rural communities.

Ms Hodgkinson today unveiled the 2014 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll at the 2014 NSW Rural Women's Gathering in Coolamon in southern NSW.

"These inspiring women from across NSW have been formally recognised in a unique annual honour roll known as Hidden Treasures," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"This honour roll provides a long lasting legacy to tireless women volunteers, who are the backbone of many rural and regional communities.

"With more than 500 women now enshrined on the honour roll, this is our way of saying thank you and honouring what you do."

Ms Hodgkinson also announced a \$30,000 sponsorship package for the next NSW Rural Women's Gathering, to be hosted in Glen Innes from 9-11 October 2015.

"Women are doing a great job across regional centres and small villages, playing an important voluntary role by providing support to community organisations, local businesses and of course families," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"These women's gatherings provide opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds to come together to build resilience, learn, share experiences and support each other while gaining access to decision-makers, information and service providers.

"The theme of the Glen Innes gathering will be '*Gather in the Glen*', capturing the essence of the New England Shire, which embraces the history of the region and when faced with adversity and the cohesion of a community to work together."

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello said, "These awards are an opportunity to uncover stories about the many rural women volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve to their community.

"The NSW Government values the contribution of our two million volunteers and I congratulate all the women whose achievements have today been recognised through the honour roll."

Hidden Treasures is a joint project of Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network and The Centre for Volunteering, NSW.

For more information and a full list of this year's Hidden Treasures Honour Roll awardees, visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn).