

# 2013 NSW Rural Women's Gathering in Scone



# Horsin' Around



25, 26 & 27 October 2013



## Welcome by Chair Presented at Scone Race Club on the evening of 25 October

Good evening. For those of you who don't know me I'm Lee Watts – mother, grandmother, wife, former Upper Hunter Shire Council Mayor, Councillor, and Manager of the local Neighbourhood Centre. Master of many hats in other words but as I look around the audience tonight I suspect most of you could list a similar number of roles that you perform in your day. It's the nature and wonder of being female.

We are surrounded by women who inspire and empower; others who blaze trails and subtly demonstrate that the male way is not the only way. As a case in point, you didn't need to be a Gillard supporter to take something from the amazingly dignified way that the former Prime Minister handled herself when deposed by Kevin Rudd. Her remarkable strength during her final days in office, her quiet exit, her lack of unguarded or excessive emotion and her refusal to say a single bad word about the process was a formidable benchmark for those women who will stand in similar roles in future years. It also cast an unflinching light on the bullying and patriarchal ways a number of key males have and continue to perform in signature political roles. The male way is not always the right way.

For an example of a woman who is using her wealth to redress the balance between the sexes look no further than Spanx founder Sara Blakely. Sara refuses to live by the adage that women are supposedly the weaker sex. The 43 year old – who has made her money helping women look better in their clothes - is the world's youngest self-made female billionaire and was recently included in Time 100, an annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world. But Sara is not just about making money. In 2006 she launched the Sara Blakely Foundation to help women through education and entrepreneurial training, and has funded scholarships for young women at Community and Individual Development Association City Campus in South Africa. Her goal? Empowerment and helping redress what Sara sees as a gross imbalance of male/female power in the boardroom and in business generally. In 2006 Sara donated \$1 million to Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy and in 2013 Blakely joined the Giving Pledge - Bill Gates and Warren Buffett's pledge for the world's richest people to give at least half their wealth to charity. She is the first female billionaire to join.

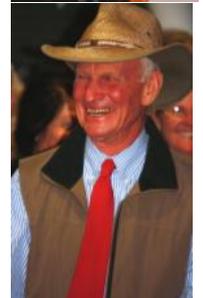
We are blessed to have a number of inspiring women role models amongst us this weekend. Dr Kaye Cussen is a well-known local GP who, in 2010 took leave of absence with Medecins Sans Frontières to establish a Maternal & Child Health Unit in Pakistan. Kaye will share her fascinating experiences with you on Saturday evening. Other keynote speakers are Isobel Knight - 2013 RIRDC Rural Women's Award winner and Director of proAGtive, and international management and marketing specialist Robyn Pulman. They are supported by a groundswell of talent from our workshop leaders who represent a dizzying array of talent and our Women of Influence session leaders.

We can learn much from these women in terms of what they have achieved and what they represent. It's empowering stuff. Equally, don't underestimate your own achievements and your own strengths simply because you haven't conquered Everest or become a billionaire by the age of 40. If you have ever held a child in your arms as you explained why life didn't quite work out for them that day, if you have ever helped a co-worker through a challenging project, ever given concise driving directions to someone who was completely lost (whether or not you turned the map upside down as you did so), if you have stood back after a job well done and taken a moment to feel good about your achievement, or if you have ever got out of bed with a desire to make a difference in this world – then you are a woman who has the ability to empower others simply by being you.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the huge group of women who have so tirelessly given of themselves to ensure that this weekend has been possible. There are too many to mention so I salute you as one. Thank you. I would also like to thank those of you who have joined us in Australia's Horse Capital for this year's NSW Rural Women's Gathering. We are proud of our equine heritage in this part of the world and the environment that supports it. From Lake Glenbawn to Burning Mountain, the Barrington Tops and all manner of ecological treasures in between we really do live in a blessed part of the world. I hope you enjoy your time with us.

As I leave you tonight I would encourage you to reflect for a moment on how important women are in society and how they should be appreciated and deserve respect regardless of their background, colour, race or religion. Indeed, I will borrow the words of Charles Malik in saying "The fastest way to change society is to mobilize the women of the world."

*Lee Watts*



# LAUNCH

Scone is the Horse Capital of Australia and what better place to launch the Women's Gathering event than at the Scone Race Club.

Visitors enjoyed local markets, great food, fine art and live equestrian demonstrations.



Judges Natalie Shephard and Sandra Martin entertained us all with Fashion of the field and a few people were lucky enough to go away with some brilliant prizes.

Everyone looked great!!!

Saturday morning we were inspired as we heard from RIRDC Rural Womens Award Winner Isobel Knight, Rural Women Connect Chair Nerida Cullen and Primary Industries Advisory Chair Lucinda Corrigan who launched the 2013 Hidden Treasures Roll. The Mayor Cr Michael Johnsen welcomed those in the audience to the Horse Capital and Guest Speaker Robyn Pullman gave a little insight into what her workshop would unveil.

After the official proceedings a great morning tea was on offer, then off to one of the fabulous workshops. Partners also had a full day ahead of them with a day of activity in and around Murrurundi.







## GATHERING DINNER



Dr Kaye Cussen spoke about her work with Médecins Sans Frontières.

Entertainment from Susan Davis, the Scone Singers and Bush Poet Greg Scott

## TOURS

There was an assortment of tours and glorious weather to make it a perfect day...  
HUNTER THOROUGHBRED STUD; MULAWA ARABIAN STUD; ELMSWOOD FARM; BELLTREES STATION; AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE SOCIETY HERITAGE CENTRE, SCONE EQUINE HOSPITAL & INVERMIEN; BURNING MOUNTAIN NPWS GUIDED WALK; SCONE HISTORIC WALK & GERALDTON GARDEN; BLAIRGOWRIE.





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AUSTRALIAN CRAFT AT ITS FINEST

Please thank our sponsors by purchasing from them or mentioning how much you enjoyed the Scone Gathering

The NSW Rural Women's Gathering Committee 2013 would like to thank everyone that joined us in Scone and we would also like to acknowledge our wonderful sponsors for supporting our event over the weekend of the 25-27th October 2013



**The tableware sale!**  
Menu holders and candles raised \$460.00  
A cheque has been donated & forwarded to MSF



Nicole Lucas Chair of the Coolomon Gathering congratulates Suzanne Andrews of Scone for winning the free registration to the 2014 Womens Gathering.



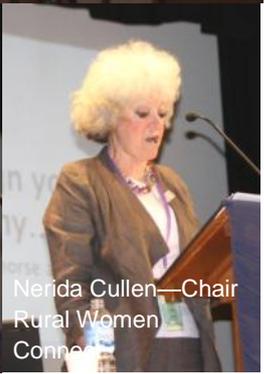
A donation of \$2,234.25 has been given to the Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation



All those in the singing workshop with Sue Davis who would like to stay in touch and receive the vocal ensembles newsletter contact Susan daviss@hcma.com.au



RIRDC Rural Womens Award Winner Isobel Knight



Nerida Cullen—Chair Rural Women Connection