



**TROY GRANT MP**  
**Parliamentary Secretary for**  
**Natural Resources**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday, 17 October 2011

**GLOUCESTER GATHERING UNEARTHS 140 HIDDEN TREASURES**

Inspiring speakers, motivational workshops and the unveiling of the 'Hidden Treasures' Honour Roll underpinned the success of this year's Women's Gathering, which was held at Gloucester on the weekend, Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, Troy Grant said today.

"More than 250 women from across our State attended the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Gathering at Gloucester and I am thrilled it was such a success," Mr Grant said.

"This year's theme was *Friendship and Dreaming beneath the Bucketts*, and one of the keynote speakers was Lauren Anderson who has played an instrumental role in building the 'collaborative consumption' movement which focuses on sharing, bartering, lending and swapping services and goods using technology as a key tool.

"Women's Gatherings are open to all rural and regional women – from all industries, community groups, cultures and locations from anywhere in NSW."

Mr Grant also announced that the NSW Government will provide \$30,000 in financial support for the 2012 Gathering, which will be hosted by the Parkes community next year.

"The NSW Government recognises the important role Women's Gatherings have in providing opportunities for rural women," Mr Grant said.

"These are important occasions to come together to network, share experiences and support each so I am pleased to announce that the NSW Government will continue to support this event next year."

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson said that the annual Hidden Treasures Honour Roll acknowledges the volunteer roles of women within NSW's rural and regional communities.

"The 2011 Honour Roll names 140 women from across our State who have made a major volunteering contribution to NSW," Ms Hodgkinson said.



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“There are more than 1.7 million volunteers in NSW and without their tireless support many groups including charities, emergency services, the arts, environment, social justice, education and sporting organisations would struggle to survive. It is important their work is appropriately recognised.”

Member for the Upper Hunter, George Souris, offered a friendly welcome to those who have travelled from other parts of NSW to attend and said he was delighted that Gloucester Shire, in his electorate, hosted the event.

“Events such as these are important for raising awareness of the fantastic role our local volunteers do while also strengthening the fabric of our community.”

Free hard copies of the 2011 Honour Roll are available and they can be downloaded from the Rural Women’s Network website via [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)