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.

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e: rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au

f: @NSWRWN  t: @NSW_RWN

b: nswruralwomensnetwork.wordpress.com
yt: youtube.com/nswrwn

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.
Connect and share

Produced 64 editions of the flagship issues based newsletter The Country Web.

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.

Supported 25 annual community-hosted Rural Women’s Gatherings (since 1993) building capacity of committees and resilience of over 7500 participants.

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)

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.

Supported over 700 women with free transport for International Women’s Day drought event at Dubbo (2007).

Delivered the InLaws farm succession series in partnership with ABC Rural Radio’s Bush Telegraph with online resources (2004).

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).

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

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.

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

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).

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).

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**Recognition and voice**

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**Leadership**

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).


Supported women to participate in WIA Conferences in USA, Spain and South Africa.

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).

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