

MEDIA RELEASE



December 5, 2008

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Upskilling rural women for sustainable communities

Women in the Maranoa-Balonne catchment will soon be able to develop their leadership skills and knowledge of natural resource management, thanks to the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC).

The Naturally Resourceful short course will be delivered by QMDC in January and February in Mitchell, Bollon and St George. The course consists of four workshops covering topics such as local ecology, biodiversity, soil/water interactions and communication techniques.

The course also includes a "Stocktake" workshop, run by extension officers from Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries in Roma, which covers pasture monitoring techniques and land condition.

QMDC Catchment Coordinator and workshop facilitator Julia Telford said the Naturally Resourceful course had already successfully boosted the skills of rural women in the Border Rivers and Maranoa-Balonne catchments, which in turn enhanced the sustainability of their regional communities.

"We're looking forward to being able to deliver the workshops in different areas of the Queensland Murray Darling Basin because previous participants have formed stronger support and social networks within their local area," Ms Telford said.

"We really want to allow as many women as possible from the region to participate in the Naturally Resourceful course, which is just one of the ways QMDC is working to deliver natural resource management skills to build economically sustainable rural communities.

"Women who have participated in the past have enjoyed the positive learning environment provided within the workshops. The feedback from the workshops has been very encouraging and that's why we are really excited to be running them again."

The first workshops in 2009 kick off on Tuesday, January 13 in Mitchell, on Wednesday, January 14 in Bollon and on Thursday, January 15 in St George. The final workshops will be held in mid February. Any interested women can visit www.qmdc.org.au/training-program.html or contact Pip Bagshaw on (07) 4671 7900.

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Please note: This photograph is available as high resolution jpegs upon request.



Women at Glenmorgan discussing pasture monitoring with DPI&F extension officers.